

Kent on Sunday

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Mid edition No 584

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Tributes paid to Lord Kingsdown

Former governor of Bank of England dies

ENTERTAINMENT »

Python set for stage resurrection?

Story behind Graham Chapman and his life in the county town

WEATHER »

County braces itself for cold snap

Forecasters predict icy spell in run-up to Christmas

PROFILE »

Barnes on the beat

Police & Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes on first year in the job

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Why the comeback trail can be a tricky one to navigate

THE defining moments of your life can often be as much about the cultural influences around you during your formative years, as the major events you experience.

But trying to recreate the magic and excitement that you felt all those years ago once you get older is rarely an easy one.

Yet nostalgia is perhaps the entertainment industry's biggest banker in these austere times. Pluck a sensation from back in the day, with a back catalogue everyone knows, charge a decent whack because your target audience have that all important 'disposable income' and before you know it, the money starts cascading in.

Of course you can discuss the artistic merits of such a mercenary move until the cows come home. The truth is, it's safe, there's an assurance of established quality, and we can't get enough of it.

Take Monty



Editor **Chris Britcher**

Python's comeback. Ten shows at the O2 Arena will become one giant money-making operation at a venue magnificently designed to keep you there and extract as much money as possible - and, in truth, in some style.

Inside this issue, we take a look at Graham Chapman - the original Python who died in Maidstone in 1989. His legacy will only live on with the TV series and films he left behind. While people flock for tickets, many will argue Chapman's memory is the only one which will not be sullied by the 'comeback'.

Ann Barnes, on the other hand, is one year into a job which has been akin to a wild rollercoaster ride. The jury remains out whether her comeback following the youth commissioner debacle is complete. I'm sure you'll have a view once you read the interview. Lots to talk about, then, and hopefully enjoy.

Have a good weekend.

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Fix yourself or we'll sack chiefs, NHS trust warned

By Chris Britcher

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HEALTH chiefs at the Medway NHS Foundation Trust have been told to take urgent action to improve treatment of patients - or steps will be taken to overhaul its senior management.

The trust is responsible for the Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham.

It is the latest blow for the NHS trust which was identified earlier this year as one of 14 to be investigated amid concerns over death rates.

The warning was ramped up on Thursday afternoon by Monitor, the sector regulator of NHS-funded health care services.

It says it is escalating its regulatory action after discovering the problems at the trust are broader than those uncovered by Sir Bruce Keogh, medical director of NHS England, in August as part of a probe into the mortality rates, which caused it to be put into special measures along with 10 other trusts.

Now the regulator believes that, given the range of significant issues it faces, the trust must set



UNDER PRESSURE: Trust behind Medway Maritime has been told to take urgent action to improve

out, then stick to, a credible plan to transform the services it provides.

Separately, Monitor is concerned the trust's failure to properly address poor A&E performance as well as problems identified by the Care Quality Commission in midwifery and maternity services last month means that it continues to operate in breach of its licence.

The regulator says it must now prepare and implement the necessary clinical strategy and has imposed a new condition on the

trust's licence to provide NHS services.

Paul Streat, regional director at Monitor, said: "We know that staff are working hard to improve the quality of the trust's services, but we need the organisation's leadership to do more to make sure urgent change happens quickly. The new licence condition gives us the power to make changes at the top if the current leadership fails to deliver."

Trust chief executive, Mark

Devlin, said, "Our new leadership team has made some real and tangible progress in tackling issues raised by the Keogh Review.

"However, I absolutely accept the need for a new comprehensive clinical strategy to sustainably transform services. Ensuring delivery of the improvements we have already in progress and shaping the new clinical strategy are the top priorities of our new medical director, chief nurse and the whole team."

County mourns loss of former bank governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton

TRIBUTES have been paid this week to Robin Leigh-Pemberton - also known as Lord Kingsdown - who died last Sunday, aged 86.

The former governor of the Bank of England was a former chairman of Kent County Council, president of Kent County Cricket Club and pro-chancellor of the University of Kent as well as being named Lord Lieutenant of the county - in addition to a host of other titles he held.

A landowner and farmer, his father worked Torrey Hill, a 2,500-acre estate close to Doddington, midway between Sittingbourne and Faversham.

He lived in the family mansion which overlooked its own cricket pitch and miniature railway.

But he will be best remembered for his time in charge of the Bank of England between 1983 to 1993.

Appointed by Margaret Thatcher, he was popular within the industry - he had previously been chairman of NatWest - but would oversee one of the most turbulent periods in its

history - including the stockmarket collapse in October 1987 and 'Black Wednesday' in September 1992 when an estimated £1.5bn was wiped out as sterling nose-dived.

However, he remained widely respected and, after retiring in 1993, was made a life peer.

He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Rosemary, and their four sons.

George Kennedy, chairman of Kent cricket club, said: "He made such a significant contribution to our county."

Mark Carney, the current governor of the Bank of England, added: "He made a substantial contribution to economic policy and the financial system of the UK, both in the public and private sector."

Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, said: "Lord Kingsdown led an astonishing and exciting life and made so many contributions in different and varied ways.

"Kent gained so much throughout his life and has lost a very great friend."

Dockyard delight as it gets £4.5m of lottery funding

THE Historic Dockyard Chatham learned on Friday it has secured a £4.54m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The money will go towards the £8.75m Command of the Oceans project, which will see galleries and other facilities to help it tell the story and significance of the dockyard, and its defences, during the age of sail, as well as create a new discovery centre. It is hoped it

will also boost its bid for World Heritage status.

Chief executive of the trust which runs the site, Bill Ferris, said: "The project meets a number of urgent conservation and visitor needs. The news the wonderful Heritage Lottery Fund has again supported us, alongside a number of long-standing funding partners, is testament to the significance of our work here."

Ex-Gills ace quizzed by cops over match-fixing allegations

FORMER Gillingham striker Delroy Facey was one of six men arrested this week after newspaper allegations of a major match-fixing syndicate.

Mr Facey, who played for the Gills during the 2007/08 season, was quizzed after an undercover investigation by the Daily Telegraph. He has subsequently been released on bail.

The report claims a betting

syndicate fixer from Singapore attempted to influence lower league games.

Mr Facey, who started his career with Huddersfield before joining Bolton in the Premier League, signed for the Gills in June 2007 and made 36 appearances for the club, scoring just three times before being sent out on loan to Wycombe Wanderers in March 2008.

Blantyre House blasted by independent report

A PRISON in Goudhurst has been heavily criticised in a recent report which points to problems of violence, drugs and bullying and causes of "immense concern".

In addition, the report by the Independent Monitoring Board says prisoners at Blantyre House do not have enough to do and spend their time "milling around the house or sleeping the day away" and described the prison population as "difficult".

The board comprises of a group of volunteers who are granted access to the prison to check on standards.

Blantyre House caters for men approaching the end of their sentence and is designed to allow them to prepare for a return to normality.

The Ministry of Justice said in a statement: "We are not complacent and will take action against anyone who threatens the safety and security of our prisons."



GOING: South Thanet's Laura Sandys

MP confirms she is to stand down in 2015

LAURA Sandys has announced she is to step down as South Thanet MP at the next General Election.

The Conservative politician, elected in 2010 by defeating former Labour cabinet member Steve Ladyman, said it was a "difficult and heart-wrenching" decision but admitted she had been considering her future for the last six months "in light of a wide range of family demands".

It is understood to relate to her husband's health.

She said this week: "I have decided that I cannot combine the level of dedication and service needed for the constituency with my growing personal responsibilities to those closest and dearest to me."

"I wish to assure you that between now and the next election I will work tirelessly to achieve more for our wonderful area."

North Thanet MP Sir Roger Gale said he was "deeply saddened" by her decision to leave but appreciated and respected the "wholly understandable domestic reasons". Her departure is likely to increase the possibility of Nigel Farage, the UKIP leader, looking to make his own bid for Westminster.

The MEP has hinted he will stand in his home county at the 2015 elections.

Axe falls on 12 children's centres, but 11 are saved following consultation

By Marijke Cox

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TWELVE children's centres around the county are to close and the hours of 19 more will have their hours slashed as the latest victims of government cut-backs.

But the figure is around half of the 23 originally earmarked for closure.

Cabinet member for specialist children's services at Kent County Council, Jenny Whittle, confirmed that 11 will keep their doors open following a consultation into the controversial plan.

The county has 97 children's centres but KCC planned to close 23 and reduce the hours at 13 to save £1.5m.

More than 6,000 people responded to a consultation, with many voicing concerns over the impact the proposed closures would have.

KCC said it has now come up with new ways to run the centres.

Clr Whittle said: "We had an overwhelming response to our proposal and I would like to thank all



CLOSURES: KCC's Jenny Whittle

the parents who took the time to tell us their views. They came up with some fantastic suggestions about how we could make savings and generate income with ideas such as hiring out the buildings after-hours.

"I have listened to parents and seen first-hand the impact these centres have and, where they are vital to the community, we have found ways to keep them open."

"This consultation has never been about reducing services and these will continue to be delivered in alternative buildings in areas where a centre closes."

"I am confident these changes will result in high-quality, effective children's centres to support the children and families of Kent into the future."

The 12 children's centres which will close are: Cherry Blossom in Wye, Squirrel Lodge in Furley Park in Ashford, Little Bees in Littlebourne, Daisy Chains in Meopham, Little Painters in Painters Ash, Loose, Dunton Green, Merry-Go-Round in West-erham, Hadlow, Larkfield, Pembury and Primrose in North Deal.

KCC said it is 'exploring the possibility' of retaining buildings at Loose, Dunton Green and Hadlow to deliver outreach services in the area.

Nineteen will see hours reduced.

Rural homes told to check fuel levels now

THOSE living in rural locations are being urged to check their heating systems now and prepare for what could be another long, cold winter.

The warning comes in a bid to ensure households are ready to cope with any repeat of the cold snap of last year which saw temperatures remain low well into April.

Now OFTEC, the trade body for the oil-fired heating industry, is calling for the 31,000 homes in rural Kent to get ready - and to ensure the elderly and vulnerable are particularly looked after.

Malcolm Farrow, of OFTEC, said: "According to Age UK, a much higher proportion of elderly people live in the countryside but, at the same time, they can often be forgotten and overlooked over the Christmas period."

"So we are urging people to check on their older neighbours and friends and to lend a hand if they need help to stay warm and well this winter."

Oil prices have tumbled over the last year - falling by some 15 per cent.

Who will be named youth PCC this time?

INTERVIEWS got under way this week for the youth police and crime commissioner.

Five applicants have made the short-list, with all aged between 19 and 23.

The previous recruitment process turned into a major controversy for Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes after it was revealed successful candidate Paris Brown, 17, from Sheerness, had made inappropriate remarks on social networking website Twitter.

After being the subject of national headlines, she stepped down just days after being offered the job. It sparked a major probe into the vetting process employed by Kent Police and left Mrs Barnes facing accusations she had exposed a young girl to intolerable pressure.

However, Mrs Barnes is convinced the role is a vital one and vowed to once again hire a suitable candidate. A total of 46 people applied for the role - down from 64 in the original process.

See page 9 for an interview with Ann Barnes.

Tom Baker return to Dr Who delights fans

TUNBRIDGE Wells' very own Time Lord, Tom Baker, proved to be the surprise twist in last weekend's eagerly anticipated 50th anniversary edition of Doctor Who.

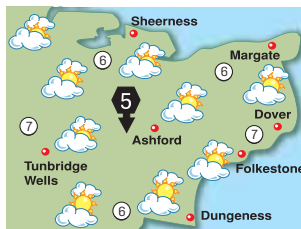
The 79-year-old, who has called Kent his home for years - living first in Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone, and now near the spa town - left his entrance until late in last Saturday night's Day of the Doctor.

He portrayed 'the curator' - a role which triggered huge excitement among the show's large global fanbase.

Mr Baker was the Doctor from 1974 to 1981 and has a special place in the heart of many fans.

The show itself pulled in more than 10 million viewers, with thousands more attending special screenings, in 3D, at cinemas around the country - including a host in Kent.

In fact, so many people turned out for the one-off showing, it finished third in the overall box office chart for films this week.



TODAY: Dry and bright with sunny spells. Gentle northerly winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). **TONIGHT:** Variable cloud, staying dry. Min temp 2-5C (36-41F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	09.05	6.4	21.29	6.5
Margate	10.12	4.5	22.30	4.6
St Mary's	02.48	5.3	15.09	5.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 7C	Min 3C
Tuesday	Max 8C	Min 2C
Wednesday	Max 7C	Min 0C
Thursday	Max 7C	Min 2C
Friday	Max 7C	Min 2C
Saturday	Max 7C	Min 2C

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

H I D over unit closure plans

CONTENTIOUS plans to shut Faversham's Minor Injury Unit will be discussed at what is predicted to be a packed out public meeting on Friday, December 6.

Set up by the Friends of the Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centre, the meeting, held at the Alexander Centre at 7pm, is expected to

attract large numbers and seating is on a first come, first served basis. NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical CCG will be at the meeting to discuss its plans to shut the town's MIU next year.

NHS chiefs say they are disappointed to be taking such action, but feel they have little choice due to being unable to find a new



provider of services.

Dr Simon Lundy, Faversham Town Team NHS lead, said: "We don't want to be in a position where we have to close the minor injuries service, but that's where we are."

University staff to stage further walk-out over pay

UNIVERSITY staff are set to stage another one day walk-out next week - the second day of action in a dispute over pay.

The Unison union, which represents some 100,000 members in the higher education sector, has called strike action for Tuesday, a move supported by the UCU, Unite and EIS unions.

It says members will picket 140 universities after rejecting a "meagre" one per cent pay rise offer.

The impact on Kent's universities is unclear.

A University of Kent spokesman, which saw some 30-50 protesters last time, said: "We won't know how many staff will take part until the day itself."

...also

Greens to sleep rough

MAIDSTONE Green Party will be sleeping rough in the town centre on Thursday night in a bid to raise money for a new winter night shelter.

Member Stuart Jeffery said it would help raise the issue of homelessness which is a particular problem for the county town.

Commuters get a voice

LONG-SUFFERING Kent commuters will have the chance to quiz Southeastern bosses at a 'meet the manager' event on Thursday from 8-10am.

Passengers can air their views at London Victoria, where managers will be at a stand located on the main concourse.

Talks over SEN provision

EDUCATION chiefs at County Hall will discuss how to deliver additional provision for Special Education Needs (SEN) children.

Some 373 more places will be needed by 2016; 164 in mainstream and 209 in special schools.

Talks take place on Wednesday.

Top cop to be quizzed

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes will be questioning the Chief Constable on policing matters at a governance board meeting on Tuesday.

Topics include an update on crime recording and how the force is improving after HMIC's damning report in June.

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‘Scary lady’ fighting for the ‘service of last resort’

IF YOU had to guess what Ann Barnes did as a profession before she became absorbed in the world of policing, you’d bet good money she was a teacher.

A friendliness belying the steely determination in her eyes, it is clear Kent’s Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) doesn’t suffer fools gladly.

And as the person in charge of a £310 million policing budget, that is probably a good thing.

The mother-of-two, who lives in Lyminge, laughs when she admits that during her 27 years in the classroom – many spent at Brockhill comprehensive in nearby Hythe – she had, on the odd occasion, been referred to as “the scary lady”.

The chances are colleagues and adversaries alike still use the phrase – albeit out of her earshot.

On meeting Mrs Barnes it is apparent she still dips into the arsenal of

One year on from sweeping to victory in the first elections for the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, **Marijke Cox** meets Ann Barnes to discover how the former teacher is getting to grips with her very public role in the county

skills developed in keeping order in the classroom in her highly visible role as commissioner.

Quite how this, shall we say, ‘governess-style’ goes down with the force – a traditionally male dominated industry – is anyone’s guess, but she remains resolute that relationships with officers are good.

Even with outgoing Chief Constable Ian Learmonth, a man clearly more interested in fighting crime on the streets of Kent than the politics of the organisation.

“We have a good relationship,” insists Mrs Barnes. “We’re not mates, we don’t live in each other’s pockets – we have our moments – but there is a very strong professional relationship. “We’re on the same side aren’t we?”

Mrs Barnes was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent a year ago amid a blizzard of voter apathy; just 16 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote.

Mrs Barnes, however, swept all aside, coming out top in every area of the county.

As former head of the Kent Police Authority – the organisation the office of PCC replaced – she was the non-political option with a proven track record in police administration.

PCCs replaced police authorities in 2012 after the Coalition came out stating they were “invisible” and pledged to introduce directly elected commissioners across the country to forge a direct link between police and the public.

Despite being against their proposed introduction, Mrs Barnes

decided to stand as an independent, incensed by what she saw as a hijacking of the election by political parties.

“I was against the PCC process for two reasons,” she said.

“Firstly, it was the cost. I don’t mean to me personally, I mean in terms of actually running the election.

“It cost the equivalent of thousands and thousands of police officers at a time when thousands and thousands had gone out the door and not been replaced. I was all for looking at governance, it’s the 21st century after all, you should always be looking at different models, but the timing I thought was really poor, when the country was on its knees.

“The other reason was the party politics. It was obvious from the start politicians were going to hijack these

PCC elections because they were the only people with the knowledge to stand.

"Very few independents were able to do that. Many dropped out.

"I knew how difficult it was going to be. The longer I was out in Kent talking to people, the longer I realised I actually had hit a nerve with local people because they didn't think there should be a party politician or a party activist in charge of their police.

"But [as an independent] you can't win it unless you put money into it. I was really out of pocket after the campaign."

It seemed to work, however.

Despite a measly turnout, Mrs Barnes beat off rivals with a huge 45.9 per cent of the vote in the first count. Going head-to-head with Tory rival Craig Mackinlay in the second count, she secured 65.5 per cent seeing her elected as the county's first ever Police and Crime Commissioner and picking up the £85,000-a-year salary.

"You don't have to be a politician to do this job," she insists. "It's better if you're not because you don't have any party telling you what to do.

"I suppose I'm difficult to handle by the politicians because quite frankly they have no control over me.

"If you've helped somebody get into a position there's payback time, whereas I didn't have any party politicians helping me."

Her critics pointed to her being aligned, in part at least, to the Liberal Democrats. Much of her campaign team were previous Lib Dem activists, spearheaded by advisor Peter Carrol – the defeated Lib Dem candidate at the 2010 General Election for Maidstone, and a man with a track record of success, ranging from his FairFuel UK campaign to the Joanna Lumley-backed Gurkha settlement rights row.

He has subsequently left her office – where he was paid in excess of £70,000. The impact of his departure will certainly be interesting moving forward.

"It's been a busy year as PCC," Mrs Barnes admits, "frantic at times, but hugely rewarding. Busier than I thought and challenging – and I've loved every minute of it.

"The police authority was made up of mainly local councillors and some independent members and it had the old-fashioned committee system of governance which by its very nature is long-winded, takes a long time to make decisions and decisions were watered down because you needed to get everybody's agreement.

"This is far more proactive. You can react quicker as well to people's issues and problems.

"If I had, as chair, a handful of pieces of correspondence a week, I was lucky. So far, since last November, I've had more than 9,000 pieces of correspondence from people wanting to talk to me, wanting me to help them, wanting me to meet with them and I have a huge public engagement programme."

Her enthusiasm for the role is palpable, but PCCs in general have courted much controversy, not least Mrs Barnes with the youth commissioner affair in April – more of which shortly.

Just this week, the results of a review commissioned in 2011 by Labour, and led by ex-Met police com-

missioner Lord Stevens, were revealed. One of its eye-catching proposals was a call for PCCs to be abolished.

Lord Stevens said the system had "fatal systematic flaws" and should be discontinued. Labour stressed it will put a new system in its manifesto ahead of the general election.

If the party is successful in 2015, it could therefore spell the end for police and crime commissioners.

Yet Mrs Barnes remains unfazed.

"PCCs are a new system of governance," she reflects, "it's not for me to say what the system should be, that's for our elected members to decide in the House of Commons.

"There will always be a model of police governance, whether it's the old police authority or the PCC, or whether it's the old policing committee, like Lord Stevens was talking about; having local authority leaders forming a committee.

"Well, that's what they had in the old days; that's what [ex-Folkestone MP and former Tory leader] Michael Howard abolished because it was so political.

"I don't have any plans not to stand next time, but two-and-a-half years is a long time and you never know what's going to happen.

"There will be no PCCs if a Labour government gets in because Lord Stevens was saying he'd found evidence to the fact they were not being particularly effective. Well, I've read his report and I can't find any evidence in it to support that."

The introduction of PCCs came during a turbulent time for the police service with huge cuts and a slash in workforce numbers.

Kent Police needed to save £50 million over four years up to 2014/15.

The force was scaled back by some 500 police officer posts and 700 civilian staff. But the worst is yet to come.

A further five per cent reduction in government grants and other potential cuts for 2015/16 amounts to additional savings of £20m in one year alone.

Straight-talking Mrs Barnes doesn't pretend it's going to be easy.

"It's enormous, it amounts to hundreds more police officers," she says.

"I found the money to buy nearly 100 uniformed posts this year, on the precept [the police's funding component of the overall council tax bill].

"I asked the public to pay a little bit more on their council tax – £2.70 per household, per year, it's less than half a glass of wine – and that bought 100 uniformed posts. That's the first investment in Kent Police for years.

"Everybody's just walked out of the door and not been replaced and that stopped that."

But that's this year. What happens next?

"We need to start working together because people know we've lost a fifth

“I asked the public to pay a bit more on their council tax – £2.70 per household, per year – that bought 100 posts, the first investment in Kent Police for years”

Ann Barnes, on trying to redress the number of officers lost to cuts



of the workforce, they know they've lost all these officers and yet everybody still wants their police officer or PCSO in their community. Demand is still there, in fact it goes up.

"The police force will always be here. The need for visible community policing – the bedrock of policing – will always be here, we just need to find ways to make sure it stays.

"You have to be creative and look at things differently.

"I've got a mobile fleet of police sta-

tions called police contact points. They visit 180 locations a month, mainly rural locations so that people have the opportunity to meet their PCSO and to meet their police officers and talk about concerns they may have.

"We're also using those mobile police stations at hot spot points at the weekends.

"The other thing is I'm investing in is Specials.

"I've given the biggest investment in Specials in the country – I've found

£250,000 to train another 100."

For the uninitiated, the Specials are volunteer police officers who come armed with full police powers, uniforms and equipment and work alongside police officers and PCSOs to help protect and serve the people of Kent.

But should the police force really be relying on volunteers to try and save pennies?

Mrs Barnes is fierce in her defence: "Specials are dressed just like any police constable; they arrest you just



IMPACT: Since becoming PCC(below), Ann Barnes courted controversy over Paris Brown (above), launched an independent probe into how Kent Police record crime and will soon hire Ch Con Ian Learmonth's (left) replacement

like any police constable; they have exactly the same powers and do exactly the same work – roads, policing, investigative work; they take statements; they do intelligence work.

"Last year they gave 64,000 hours of policing to Kent and they do it for nothing."

The highly trained policeman losing his job will, however, take little comfort that he will be replaced by free labour. That debate will continue.

Visible community policing is, as far as Mrs Barnes is concerned, the foundations of the service.

It is a constant mantra heard by residents. In short, they want to see the 'Bobby' on the beat on their streets.

In her quest to protect it she is hosting a meeting on December 6 asking anybody in Kent to come and look at what the impact of the present and future cuts mean.

"My biggest worry is how do you maintain visible community policing with even fewer officers?"

Mrs Barnes stated that if other authorities stepped up and took responsibility for their own remits, it would ease pressure on the force.

"I think the difficulty of the police service is it's the service of last resort," she said.

"The police cannot walk away from somebody in society who wants their help and I think all partners now need to start taking responsibility.

"For instance, noise abatement is the job of the local authority; it's not a policing issue.

"But I can't see very many noise abatement officers on duty on Saturday at 2am when a neighbour is blasting out music. So who do people call? They call the police. They're picking up the job for other people."

In a more shocking case, the police are also dealing with mental health patients.

"There are so few mental health acute beds in the county, but what

are the police to do if somebody phones them up and says this person really needs help and there is nowhere for them to go?

"The other month, there were five people with mental health issues in police cells virtually on suicide watch because there were no mental health beds. They even took a young person to the Midlands because there was no mental health bed here.

"Now, that is not fair on those people; cells are the last place they should be. And it's not fair on police officers because they're not mental health nurses.

"What happens if something goes wrong?

"I've released some funds to the force for officers to work with a mental health triage nurse to try to, if somebody has a mental health issue in the evenings or the weekends, work through that rather than have them ending up in a police cell being watched 24/7 by police officers.

"I think we need a bit of a debate here because if we have fewer police officers in Kent, should they just be doing what are policing issues and should our partners actually be doing what their jobs are?"

Mrs Barnes' no-nonsense character is likely to ruffle a few feathers, not only among partners in the community, such as councils, but also the police.

Earlier this year, using her new powers at PCC, she commissioned an independent report looking into police crime recording.

The results found the force was under-recording one in every 10 crimes and some victims were not getting the service they deserved.

An 'institutional bias' was uncovered by the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) suggesting police in the past were chasing numeric targets rather than tackling crimes which may have had a greater impact on people in Kent.

It also exposed the force for the sometimes incorrect use of "no

crime" – when a recorded crime is reviewed at a later stage and then declared not to be a crime.

Mrs Barnes chose to make the report public and at the same time took the chief constable to task in a meeting in June in front of the public and the press.

"Our officers can investigate us, can lock us up, we have to trust that they're doing things properly and correctly," she says; comments which will echo this week in the light of the fall-out of the Andrew Mitchell 'Pleb-gate' fiasco.

"I wanted an independent report because the police are very good at investigating themselves, but there's always a tiny suspicion about the police investigating the police.

"I wanted this independent element, and thank goodness I did.

"As a result, Kent's recording of crime is now absolutely the best in the country."

When asked how the force reacted to her decision to commission the report, she smiled.

"The force took it on the chin and they put it right. They now have compliance of around 96/97 per cent."

She said the independent report set down a marker for her that Kent would always be open, transparent and honest.

The report was a positive for the controversial PCC who just months

“The easiest thing would have been to have forgotten about a youth commissioner; it would have quietly died a death, but I feel so strongly about it”

Ann Barnes' determination to continue with finding a youth 'tsar'

earlier had received an almighty public kicking.

In April, following through on her manifesto pledge to appoint a youth commissioner, Mrs Barnes announced Paris Brown as the person who would bridge the gap between young people and the police in a one-year term, £15,000 salaried position.

It was announced with much fanfare, hitting the national press and with other PCCs considering doing the same thing.

But it was all to come crashing down in the space of one remarkable week. Miss Brown, just 17 and from Sheerness, was to be exposed for offensive rants on social networking site Twitter, alluding to racism, underage drinking and homophobia.

She was torn apart by the press. Her position was untenable and just days after being appointed she stepped down from the post.

Mrs Barnes took responsibility, but at the same time gave a dig to the police recruitment process which did not check social networking sites for that grade of post.

The name Paris Brown was to become synonymous with an embarrassing time for the commissioner. Some of the mud, from which, still sticks today.

A parliamentary report soon after by the Home Affairs Committee branded it a fiasco and derided "maverick decision-making" by some PCCs.

Many appealed to Mrs Barnes to ditch the idea of a youth tsar, but she remains steadfast in her quest to bridge the gap between the police and younger generation.

In fact, she is in the process of interviewing for the new youth commissioner.

Five hopefuls have been whittled down from 46 applications. There were 64 applicants last time.

"What happened with Paris showed me that I can actually face up to anything if I truly believe in something," she said.

"The easiest thing to do would have been to have forgotten about having a youth commissioner; it would have quietly died a death, but I feel so strongly about it, I know there is a need for this person and I'm looking forward to appointing them."

The age range of the shortlist is slightly older this time, from 19-23, although Mrs Barnes said this was simply down to their applications and not the fact they are older than Miss Brown was at the time.

"We had a matrix of things we were looking for. It's the same appointment process I'll be using for the chief constable a fortnight later."

And will she be checking their social networking sites?

"Yes, on the hour – and the chief constable's!"

The current chief constable Ian Learmonth announced in October he would be retiring in January, and the search is now on for a new top cop to lead the force.

Any claims his departure was caused by any rift with Mrs Barnes have been rubbished both publicly and privately by all concerned.

Interviews will take place at the beginning of December.

Unfortunately, and perhaps not unusual for this senior role, there are no women in the running.

"I have been doing chief officer appointments here in Kent for 12 years and, in all that time with all those dozens of officers looking for promotion, I have only ever interviewed

three women for top jobs," said Mrs Barnes.

"I think it's sad the leadership of the police service does not reflect the people it leads, and it certainly doesn't reflect the people it serves.

"When I was chair of KPA with [former Chief Constable] Mike Fuller we set up a gender strategy group to help women progress through the force and there are now women in Kent at chief superintendent level and superintendent level so I'm hopeful for the future."

Mrs Barnes is clearly proud of what she has achieved in just one year, particularly her dream to see a round-the-clock Sexual Assault Referral Centre introduced to the county finally realised.

"You can cut through a lot of red tape if you've got the will to do something," she said.

But she visibly lights up when discussing being out on the road in her second-hand camper van meeting with communities.

"I use it as a mobile office which is good and I can meet people privately because they don't want to discuss things in the back of the car or standing in a car park," she said.

"I also do surgeries every six weeks to two months and Meet the Commissioner events where I invite anybody from the community to come and talk. I take the chief constable with me and the deputy.

"They are happy to come along; they want to hear first hand from the people they serve."

She added: "I need to focus on what local priorities are which drive me in certain directions, and the direction it's driving me in is actually about visible community policing and neighbourhood policing.

"People have got to trust you. I've delivered on almost all of my manifesto promises; the one that is outstanding is the tracker process where victims can track the management of their own crime.

"That'll be on the books by April 1."

While she's clearly concerned about the austere future, she says the feeling around Kent Police HQ – where she is now based with her team in Maidstone – is upbeat.

"You talk to people here, any police officer and PCSO, and I am amazed and stunned and humbled by their professionalism," she said.

"They love their job, they might moan about it sometimes, but everyone moans."

Outside of her PCC role, Mrs Barnes – who is a member of the Lyminge amateur dramatic group, playing Madam Edith in 'Allo 'Allo and the back end of a pantomime horse among her roles – has a busy family life with her veterinary husband, two grown-up children, grandson and another grandchild on the way.

"Everyone is really proud of what I've done," she said.

"My children know they've got a strong-minded mother because they have been brought up by me.

"My husband knows I don't back away from things.

"If I'm wrong I will take things on the chin and responsibility for things, but I will do something if it's the right thing to do."

The ups and downs of the last year are unlikely to be the last for Mrs Barnes, but the fire in her belly – no matter how many feathers it ruffles – will likely see her achieve her aims.

Python with a past set for an on-stage resurrection?

As fans flocked to snap up tickets to the Monty Python reunion shows at the O2, **Chris Murphy** remembers the late founding member, Graham Chapman

ON OCTOBER 4, 1989, an integral part of one of the world's best-loved comedy teams breathed his last, surrounded by his nearest and dearest at Maidstone Hospital.

Graham Chapman was just 48 when he died; a founding member of the pioneering Monty Python.

But he is set to appear on stage – in spirit at least – again next summer after five shows at Greenwich's O2 Arena sold out within hours on Monday for the eagerly anticipated reunion of the Python team, prompting a further five to be added on Friday.

The shows will be the first time in 30 years the surviving members have performed together in public.

And the other Pythons have dropped heavy hints Mr Chapman has a role to play in the stage show.

The show's title even includes a reference to his death in the team's typically irreverent style. The comeback is subtitled 'One Down, Five to Go'.

Mr Chapman died from tonsil cancer and secondary spinal cancer – an illness he had spent a year fighting after it was detected in the November of 1988, by his dentist.

Despite two operations and extensive treatment, on October 3, 1989, he suffered a massive haemorrhage at his home – a grand detached house in Hermitage Lane, Maidstone – and was rushed to hospital.

Surrounded by friends and family – which included his long-term partner David Sherlock, and members of the Python team – he died the following day.

Mr Chapman had moved to Maidstone from north London in the 1980s.

Playing the lead role in Python's two most successful films – *Life of Brian* and *The Holy Grail* – Mr Chapman had taken the brave step of 'coming out' about his homosexuality in the 1970s. The day after revealing it on a TV show, he introduced friends to Mr Sherlock, who he had met in Ibiza in 1966.

At the time of Mr Chapman's death, Mr Sherlock said: "He was astounded by all the people who came to see him, all the people who loved him. He said this experience restored his faith in human nature."

Fellow Pythons John Cleese and Michael Palin were also at his bedside.

Mr Sherlock added: "Everyone said their goodbyes and Graham fought throughout the night.

"I talked to him constantly, told him how much we loved him and how much he was loved.

"The end was peaceful and happy."

In the months before his death, Mr Chapman appeared in a TV special called *Parrot Sketch Not Included* – his final TV appearance – and a celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of the first Python show's broadcast.

The anniversary was just a day after Mr Chapman passed away.

There should have been a party for the rest of the team, but out of respect it was cancelled.

Python Terry Jones said: "I think it's the worst case of party pooping I have ever come across. But seriously, we will all miss him. We all loved him very much."

Born on January 8, 1941, in Leicester, he grew up with a love for comedy show *The Goons*. Studying medicine at Cambridge, he joined the legendary Footlights where he met Mr Cleese. The duo would go on to develop a legendary comedy writing partnership; Mr Chapman providing much of the inspiration, and Mr Cleese the crafted script.

Initially producing scripts for comedy shows fronted by the likes of David Frost and Marty Feldman, the duo would eventually become part of the groundbreaking Python team when they teamed up with Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin and Terry Gilliam.

However, Mr Chapman was not without his demons.

While at university, he developed a drinking habit which would dog him for many years.

The fellow Pythons would later reveal how his behaviour impacted on their filming for both their TV series and the *Holy Grail* in 1974.

Terry Jones told *The Australian* newspaper earlier this year: "It became very irritating. When he was drinking, sometimes bottles of gin, he couldn't remember his lines.

"We never really considered sacking him because we were close mates, but John [Cleese] really bore the brunt of it. Graham would keep getting his lines wrong; on one occasion we had

“I think it's the worst case of party pooping I have ever come across. But seriously, we will all miss him. We all loved him very much”

Fellow Python Terry Jones, after Chapman died before anniversary



NOT THE MESSIAH: But a very funny man. Graham Chapman, who died in Maidstone Hospital, in *Life of Brian*

Cleese's classic eulogy

THE Monty Python team reunited at Mr Chapman's memorial service at St Bartholomew's Hospital – where he had trained to be a doctor – in January 1990.

In his eulogy John Cleese said: "Graham Chapman, co-author of the *Parrot Sketch*, is no more. He has ceased to be. Bereft of life, he rests in peace. He's kicked the bucket, hopped the twig, bit the dust, snuffed it, breathed his last and gone to meet the great Head of Light Entertainment in the sky. "And I guess that we're all thinking how sad it is that a man of such talent, of such capability

for kindness, of such unusual intelligence, should now so suddenly be spirited away at the age of only 48, before he'd achieved many of the things of which he was capable, and before he'd had enough fun. Well, I feel that I should say, nonsense.

"Good riddance to him, the freeloading bastard, I hope he fries. And the reason I feel I should say this is he would never forgive me if I didn't, if I threw away this glorious opportunity to shock you all on his behalf.

"Anything for him, but mindless good taste."

Son of Palin keen for show

MICHAEL Palin's son, Will, is no stranger to the county – living on Sheppey with his wife – where he spends his time battling to save ancient buildings in and around the area.

He even managed to get his famous father to attend a heritage festival on the island in 2011.

Speaking to *KoS* this week, Will Palin said: "That is my Dad's world,

that's what he does. My world is here looking after the historic buildings around Sheerness.

"The show will be good fun – they all said it will be a fun thing to look forward to.

"It's a positive thing and I am looking forward to it.

"I have already been bombarded by friends and relations who want to try and get tickets."

to do 24 takes of a single sketch."

It is reported he and Mr Sherlock had an open relationship, which allowed Mr Chapman a rather promiscuous lifestyle with both men and women.

In 1971, the pair adopted a young teenage runaway from London, called John Tomiczek. Mr Chapman is understood to have known the boy's father who gave his blessing for the couple to become his legal guardian.

Mr Tomiczek, then 17, would eventually work for Mr Chapman and lived at their Maidstone home. However, he died of a heart attack in 1992.

The extent of his relationship with Mr Tomiczek was the subject of some discussion between his friends.

Michael Palin said this year: "I didn't know what sort of relationship it was to start with because Graham had lots of young male friends. But then I realised this was a really genuinely protective relationship.

"Graham spent a lot of time with him. I think he was trying to improve his life, I would say; at least I would give him the benefit of the doubt."

After Mr Chapman's death a private family service took place on October 13 at Vinters Park Crematorium.

The Python members stayed away, fearing it would turn into a media circus. Instead, they sent flowers shaped like the famous Monty Python foot.

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The cost of clearing up after lazy pet owners

It's universally abhorred, yet many of our streets still suffer from dog owners failing to clear up after their pets. **Joe Bill** looks at the messy issue

THE continuing problem of dog mess on our county's pathways and parks has left local authorities and residents stumped as how to eradicate the issue.

Despite years of health warnings and the threat of cash fines, irresponsible dog walkers are still flouting the rules.

With much of Kent's economy relying on tourists from near and far, it is feared those refusing to pick up their pet waste are not only jeopardising the Garden of England's good name, but also costing local councils a heap of cash for clearing it up.

New research revealed 53 per cent of Kent's dog owners admitted to letting their pet foul in public without cleaning it up afterwards.

A survey of 1,000 pet owners also showed 73 per cent believe dog mess is an 'issue' in their area.

In these times of austerity, and with local councils having to foot the bill, it's no surprise many believe public money should not have to be spent on the clean-up.

But the cost not to do so can be high, both to the aesthetics of an area and to public health.

A spokesman for the national Keep Britain Tidy organisation, says although it has recorded a reduction in the overall levels of dog fouling since 2001/02, it is still a problem.

A spokesman said: "It is still a significant cause of offence amongst the public.

"Dog fouling is not only unpleasant, it is dangerous. The biggest threat to public health from dog excrement is toxocarasis."

Health warnings from the NHS says dog faeces contains hidden bacteria transferable to humans including ringworm, tapeworm and toxocarasis - an infection causing stomach pains, headaches and cloudy vision (see box).

It is a particular threat to children.

In Folkestone's Harbour ward, the residents' association is fed up with the constant battle against pet waste and has created its own campaign to fight back.

The 'Stamp It Out' movement has been backed by more than 450 people to date, and is continuing to challenge Shepway District Council to

deal with the problem.

A spokesman for the group said: "This problem is clearly blighting the whole country and most people are disgusted by it.

"It is time central government led the way and instructed local authorities to enforce the dog fouling by-laws and get tough on offenders.

"We have had enough. Our streets and open spaces are contaminated with dog mess and Shepway council has no strategy for combating this.

"We believe enforcement is an essential deterrent and necessary in order to combat anti-social problems which create a negative impression of our district and impact on the quality of life of its residents."

Although Shepway council has hired local enforcement officers to operate in the area this year, the residents' association say officers are more interested in fining cigarette droppers than clamping down on the issue.

But the council's environment chief, Rory Love, said the enforcement officers have helped to tackle the problem.

Cllr Love said: "We believe it is just a small and irresponsible minority of owners who are the culprits.

"Following the success in tackling dog-fouling of a recent enforcement trial, the council is now developing further initiatives to crack down on offenders, who risk a £1,000 fine.

"We plan to have dedicated enforcement patrols will be on the streets in the new year. We also welcome tip-offs from community-minded residents who can tell us when and where our patrols will catch anti-social owners.

"In the meantime, we have introduced new dog waste bins for the first time in more than 15 years."

The survey statistics which once again raised the issue this week, were conducted by animal health website WormPatrol.

It also revealed 65 per cent of people who witnessed an owner leaving their dog's mess chose to ignore it through fear of confrontation.

Of those surveyed, 14 per cent said they would just clear it up themselves.





However, the community in Whitstable are one such group which will stand up for its streets – according to a local councillor.

Phil Cartwright, who represents Labour in the Whitstable Harbour ward, explained how youngsters from local schools have created posters to put up around the town – raising awareness levels of both young and old alike.

He said: “We are a very tight-knit community. If you walk down the streets, in a number of the windows you will see drawings that children have made basically saying ‘make sure you clean up after your dog’.

“You will also find that locals will have a go at people if they don’t pick up dog mess.

“Whitstable locals are not backward in coming forward when it comes to that.

“They are quite effective, and we are very proud of our beach and want to keep it nice.”

Canterbury City Council has invested £19,000 in a new cleaning unit specifically designed to pick up the mess, nicknamed Fido.

The machine, which looks like a converted golf buggy, costs £10,000 a year to staff and run and is used two days a week to clean pathways, parks and football pitches.

It has an 80-litre tank which is filled every time it goes out, so on an average of 160 litres per week, that’s 8,320 litres of pet waste per year.

Cllr Cartwright doesn’t believe the council should have to stump up the cash, but he admits that enforcing the rules itself costs money – something most local councils don’t have.

“There is the old saying that ‘there is no such thing as a bad dog just a bad owner’. We shouldn’t have to spend money on the Fido machine.

“There are complaints already about enforcing parking regulations, and people who break planning applications.

“You can put all these rules in place, but then

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8,000,000

Estimated UK dog population (as of 2010)

1,000

Tonnes of dog excrement produced daily

7%

In survey of 10,000 sites, amount with dog mess

What is Toxocariasis?

Toxocariasis is an infection of the round-worm *toxocara canis*.

The eggs of the parasite can be found in soil or sand contaminated with faeces and if swallowed, result in infection that lasts between six and 24 months.

Symptoms include eye disorders, vague ache, dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in extremely rare cases, seizures/fits.

Often the eggs are ingested when passed to the mouth by the hands, but this can also occur through contact with dogs or other inanimate objects including the wheels of toys and the soles of shoes.

Infected soil samples are often found in play areas and as a result, Toxocariasis most commonly affects children between 18 months and five years.

Source: Keep Britain Tidy

80%+

Number of UK councils providing dedicated dog waste bins

£1,000

Maximum fine for failure to clear up after your dog

90%+

Number of UK councils with dog wardens

Dog mess – the legal implications

If you are spotted failing to clear up after your pet, you can be issued with a fixed penalty notice – this is, normally, around £80.

However, if you end up taking the case to court – for example by not paying – that maximum fine can increase to £1,000.

So when does the law apply to you? Simple.

If you are in charge of the dog in a public place – regardless of whether you own it – you are expected to clear up any mess it leaves behind.

The regulations state specifically, that being unaware the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after your dog.

If someone fails to clean up after their dog, the council will clear dog fouling from public places that it has a legal responsibility for.

But this will be a delayed reaction and add to the cost of local authorities already feeling the pinch due to budget cuts.

So if you spot someone allowing their dog to foul and not then clear it up, what can you do?

Keep Britain Tidy issues the following advice: "If you are with someone you know and they allow their dog to foul you may feel safe telling them that they shouldn't."

"However, if you do not know the person it is important not to confront them if you think that your personal safety might be at risk."

"Dog wardens are empowered and trained to deal with offenders."

"If you have information about a dog fouling you could report it to the police, the local council or a dog warden, but it is up to them to decide whether they wished to proceed any further."

"While it is possible to take a private prosecution, it would be at a person's own expense and you will need strong evidence to prove your case in court."

The best course of action is to jot down details of the offender if safe to do so and report it to the council.

« PAGE 15

you have got to enforce them. That's where a lot of money comes in – actually getting people out on the streets to enforce it."

Canterbury council and Cllr Cartwright believe the way forward is for people to inform the authority when they see someone ignoring the rules.

Cllr Cartwright added: "Everybody has a mobile phone these days and we should take photographs of the people doing it. The council can then take it up, especially if you've got the name of the person responsible."

"At the end of the day, if we want a nice environment to live in, it's down to us to keep it nice."

The problem seems to be widespread. Some 54 per cent of those surveyed saying they see excrement left by lazy pet owners 'every time' or 'nearly every time' they walk their own animal.

In the west of the county, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council say they keep a close eye on dog mess with a three-pronged approach.

Director of street scene and leisure, Robert Styles, said: "The council supplies more than 1,500 bins which can be used for fouling – and dedicated dog waste bins."

"We also carry out a wide range of promotional and educational activities to promote all aspects of responsible dog ownership, including fouling issues. This includes 'Bag & Flag' events, leaflet drops, signage, school visits and dog shows."

Mr Styles' opinion was consistent with the rest of the county in saying that the most important deterrent is enforcement.

He added: "We patrol 'hot spot' areas, such as recreation grounds and alleyways, to deter offenders and also to engage with responsible dog owners, encouraging them to report any offenders to us. Where offences are witnessed, fixed penalty notices are issued and followed up with prosecution if necessary."

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Lifting lid on the darling of the restaurant critics

Joe Bill spends a day behind the scenes of an eatery proud of its roots and its Michelin star. Experiencing the heat of the kitchen, he learns just what it is that makes chef patron Stephen Harris tick and why some of his local rivals rub him up the wrong way.

FROM the outside, it is a rather underwhelming sight. It has a slight ramshackle air to it, dated even; long grass growing and swaying in the chilly air around it. In short, it looks like any normal rural pub.

We're in Seasalter – practically a suburb now of sprawling Whitstable to the east.

Behind the pub's white-washed walls lurks a small caravan park which looks as though it is permanently stuck in the 1960s.

Meanwhile, a slow procession of dog walkers and ramblers stride past en route to a coastal path which leads to Faversham in one direction and Whitstable in the other.

The estuary waters, remarkably shallow in places, stretch out with Sheppey's coastline clear to see.

If you get lucky, you can sometimes see seals swimming in the waters and basking on a sandbank.

Welcome to the Sportsman, a pub and restaurant which shines like a beacon on Kent's culinary landscape.

Walk through its doors and the decor is chunky woods and open fires.

What it is not, however, is particularly pretentious.

Which is perhaps a little surprising given that it is a long-time holder of that most precious of gourmet awards – a Michelin star and a current media darling.

In November, Time magazine named chef patron Stephen Harris among its 'Gods of Food'.

"I like the fact there's a kind of rough and readiness to the place," Mr Harris explained.

"It feels real and it feels honest."

The National Restaurant Awards this year named Mr Harris as the Chef's Chef of the Year, a coveted trophy voted for by both critics and peers.

His ego though, refuses to be petted. Instead, his mind is set firmly on the future, the food, and the team he has built around him.

Little wonder given the expectation such recognition brings.

"In serving up 25,000 to 30,000 meals a year, consistency is the key," he says.

It certainly seems to be working.

Mr Harris and head chef Dan Flavell are running a restaurant which has boasted a Michelin star for the

last seven years.

What's more, its popularity continues to grow, despite mounting competition from nearby Whitstable which is fast becoming a smorgasbord of fresh-faced eateries, mining a rich vein of tourists and locals.

"The other night we were full," says the 52-year-old, "so I went into town to check out the restaurants, and there were about 10 customers in all of Whitstable."

"The problem with areas like this is there are not enough restaurants in the summer, but too many in the winter."

"I was genuinely relieved because I have six chefs in my kitchen and you still have to pay them even if no-one comes in."

"But it's such a big operation now compared with when we started. Yesterday we served 100 people – 50 for lunch and 50 in the evening and that's on a Wednesday in November."

Father-of-one Mr Harris is no stranger to the area. He grew up in nearby Faversham – a short drive down the winding roads across the marshes – and attended the town's Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

He knows only too well the challenges everyone in the industry faces – and the blood, sweat and tears which help create a successful business.

He adds: "The restaurant world has changed completely; people around Whitstable and Canterbury are a bit hipper now, they think they know about restaurants because it's on the TV all the time, but it is hard, hard work."

"Tuesday is when the meat comes in from Monkshill Farm [in nearby Herne Hill]; the game comes in on Thursday and the fish everyday."

"There is a routine that the kitchen works to. On Tuesday we make the stocks and the sauces and it can be hell because there is so much to do."

"The guys will be working until 11.55am and we open at noon so we will only just get everything done."

"It gets a bit hairy sometimes."

"I just try to keep out of the way on certain days, because we are working at full tilt in there."

"If I am there, I'm in the way because I'm always thinking about how

we can improve things, and sometimes you don't want someone around who is trying to change everything – you just need to get the job done.”

Several times a week, Mr Harris will take a trip to Canterbury and the acclaimed Goods Shed marketplace next to Canterbury West station.

There he will acquire ingredients for his dishes and get a sense of the meat and cheeses which pack the required punch.

If they tantalise his tastebuds, he'll order in bulk.

As we stroll around the bustling city building, he explains: “I might go round and get a box of little bits, which might not seem like a lot for a 50-seater restaurant, but it tells me what's coming up, what's good at the moment, what farms I can use.

“There is a lot here. There is a really good butcher. Last week I got some great pork from him.

“The cheese guys are good and I get goats' cheese freshly made; literally made the day before we use it.”

Not that he holds similar markets in such high regard.

“I go to too many farmers' markets where it's just full of chutney and jam. Well farmers don't make chutney and jam.

“Though the jam may be perfectly nice, a farmers' market should have some farmers in there. They are something very specific.

“It started in California. I went to a few around San Francisco and they are a proper market.

“You have a surrounding area and

Pictures: ADY KERRY



“ We do what is called cuisine du terroir – a French term meaning cooking determined by the land. So obviously we have lamb instead of kangaroo... ”

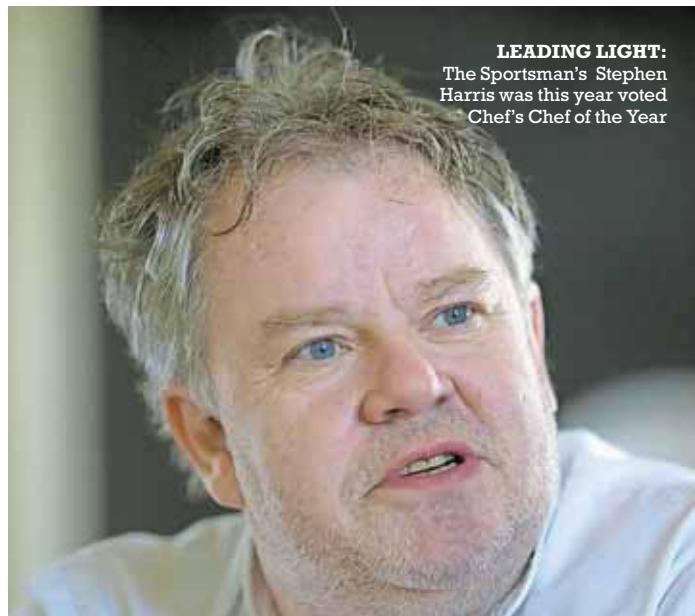
Stephen Harris, on his reliance of using locally sourced produce

all the farmers from that area bring their products, meat or vegetables or herbs to market and it is sold.”

The Sportsman, like an increasing number of restaurants, relies heavily on local produce to create its menus.

“We do what is called cuisine du terroir – a French term which basically means cooking determined by the land. So obviously we have lamb instead of kangaroo or any other type of meat because that is what is available on the salt marsh.”

The menu will evolve, but don't expect fresh dishes to appear on it every day.



LEADING LIGHT:
The Sportsman's Stephen Harris was this year voted Chef's Chef of the Year

“We don't change dishes as a matter of rule,” he says, “I just do it when I feel like it.

“There are some people who feel that we don't change enough at the Sportsman, but my answer to them is ‘you don't go to McDonalds and ask if they still do a quarter-pounder, you don't go into Pizza Hut and ask why they are still doing margaritas.’

“The only rule I really have is making sure the dish I replace it with has to be better. Why do people presume creativity in a restaurant?

“Surely what is more important in a restaurant is its daily execution?

“I don't really care what a restaurant serves. If it is a French brassiere and it does the best omelette or terrin, just keep making it, every day the same.

“When you go to Paul Bocuse [three-Michelin star French chef] you want the famous soup with truffles in with the puff pastry lid, because he invented it.

“Gordon Ramsay doesn't take scallops in raisin vinaigrette off the menu; Heston Blumenthal doesn't take snow and porridge off.

“We are a modern British restaurant; we are going to be doing lamb with mint sauce and pork with apple

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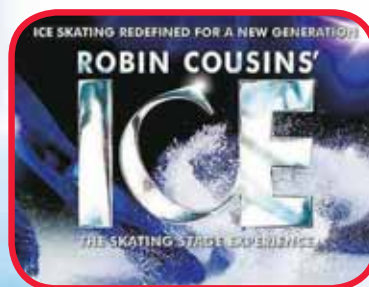
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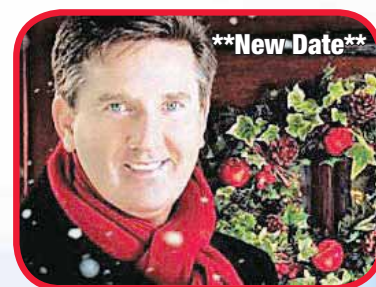
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sauce. We'll probably be doing them until the day it closes or they carry me out in a box."

One of only five Michelin starred venues in Kent, the Sportsman's signature dish is slip sole with home-made seaweed butte.

So what goes through the mind of a chef when approaching service?

The Sportsman's head chef Dan Flavell explained: "It's key to try and think about what you are doing all the time. Putting thought into everything we are doing."

"Whether it's cutting an onion or portioning a piece of fish."

"Don't just go through the motions. Always think about it and make it as well as you can every time."

"Your lowest standards should be above the next person's highest. Set the bar high."

Mr Flavell and Mr Harris have travelled to a number of the top restaurants across the world to try different dishes and expand their horizons.

Earlier this year, the pair set up a pop-up kitchen in popular gastro-pub the Flying Elk in Stockholm.

Mr Flavell said: "We take on board

things we have eaten and the way things are done. But we also make sure we are up on anything that is happening locally."

"The narrative of the Sportsman is based on the food history of the local area. So you have to bear that in mind when you think about new dishes."

"It's no good going over to Stockholm and having a really nice dish with abalone [common name for marine molluscs and sea snails] when we haven't got any farmed over here."

The 50-plus hours Mr Flavell puts into the kitchen every week is the "nature of the beast".

And what happens when, inevitably, something does go wrong?

"An old cliché is to not let your mistakes go out of the kitchen," he says.

"There will, of course, be mistakes made, but we make sure we deal with it in-house and that it doesn't happen again."

"Earlier this week, some cockles went out that had a little grit in them still and we just went to the customer and asked if they would like them to be changed. If you are honest with the customer everything will be fine."

As Mr Flavell alluded to, the location of the restaurant plays a strong part in shaping its present.

A history graduate from Kings College London, Mr Harris said: "The area around the pub is listed in the Domesday Book as being owned by the kitchens of the Archbishop of Canterbury."

"The idea of a piece of land owned by the Archbishop's kitchen is odd. But it was because the area made its own salt and in those days, even now, you can't cook or preserve anything without salt."

"For the last four years we've used Monkshill Farm as a supplier and it had never occurred to me that they were the monks of Canterbury and it was their farm."

"This was a historical larder for Canterbury. Lambs and pigs were on the salt marsh with the salt available to make ham and bacon. There was also the fish and shellfish coming from the estuary."

The pub takes its name from the game birds that fly over the marshes, shot and eaten by 'sportsmen'.

Drawing on that heritage inspired

the pub's tasting menu: a three-hour dining experience of up to 15 dishes.

It remains a popular choice.

Mr Harris said: "When we first opened, the original idea was to have a provincial restaurant where we would go up to London steal all of Gordon Ramsay's and Heston Blumenthal's best dishes and bring them back and cook them just as well in a pub."

"That was an unusual idea at that time, but after about four years I realised I hadn't found a voice, my own style, I was just cooking other people's food."

"I was still learning, but I felt like I wanted to do something original."

"We were lucky here; within three years of opening Jay Rayner came down and reviewed us and we got into the Gastro-Pub Cook Book."

"So we were getting noticed because of the quality of the food and we were winning awards."

"But I really felt like I could take it somewhere else and that's where the tasting menu came in."

"I was trying to think of how I could be original. It was very important for the progress of the restaurant to develop a story."

Just a few of the dishes gracing the menu in recent times have included smoked eel and egg yolk, slow roasted cauliflower with apple vinegar and mustard, home cured bacon with brill and, of course, both lamb and oysters feature.

It may be a treat for the senses, but it's certainly not a cheap option. To get the full taster experience will set the diner back £65 per head.

So has the role of the chef today –

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elevated by non-stop TV shows as the latest form of star – changed dramatically?

"In the old days," recalls Mr Harris, "a chef would go to college and learn the classics from a text book – the Guide Culinaire by Auguste Escoffier."

"Once you had done your three years you would know all of the sauces, all of the garnishes and be able to go and work at the Dorchester as part of a big brigade."

"The chef would say 'make me two litres of hollandaise' and you were trained for this."

"That system held cooking in its grip until 10 to 15 years ago. And it still does in places."

"But any cutting-edge chef doesn't do that. They try and come up with their own stuff."

"You are basically almost inventing things from the beginning because everybody wants to be original. It is seen as important and, rightly or wrongly, being a chef is seen as creative."

"So when you come up with a new dish, you have to chuck out the rule book and start from the beginning, so it's a very long process."

So is the term of 'gastro-pub' truly the saviour of many village pubs struggling to survive?

"It's just a term that works, but I don't like it," Mr Harris says.

"It's become a term of abuse as well. You can go around other places and it's a gastro-pub by numbers with the chalkboard menu and so on."

Ah. The chalkboard. So beloved of chefs as a sign of an ever-changing



menu. Or perhaps not, according to Mr Harris as he takes a swipe at celebrity chef Richard Phillips and his nearby outlet.

"People end up somewhere like the Pearson's Arms," Mr Harris says of his rival's beachside Whitstable gastro-pub.

"It has a professionally written chalkboard and it just looks like the marketing men have got hold of it, rather than it being what it was originally meant for – the menu is going to change so we need to be able to wipe it out."

"Some people love the crap that goes with restaurants, and I do occa-

ORGANISED CHAOS A PERFECT RECIPE

THE Sportsman's kitchens are small if not bordering on cramped, as you would expect from a rural pub that has been adapted to provide restaurant quality food.

There are no spectacular sweeping service counters – just well-marked, well-used metal surfaces butted up against white walls.

Bins filled with home-made sea salt make it a squeeze for two people to get past each other on the way in and fresh baked bread rests on racks in a storage area ready to be served up.

I even spied some popping candy, no doubt to add an edge to a sweet dessert.

The chefs, dressed in whites, work in close quarters and in warm temperatures with just a couple of yards of space each.

Well-worn equipment looks practical rather than flashy and the sounds are of extractor fans and vegetables being chopped, punctuated with the occasional shout to "check the hobs".

Through a small archway are the ovens and hot tables where the cooking takes place; its hot, its

steamy and the team barely look up from their tasks.

Much like the exterior of the building, the kitchen may not be made of marble, but it has character and a story behind it. Even the walk-in refrigerator was converted from a former cook book library as the operation grew in size.

Dan Flavell fillets a piece of fish effortlessly while chatting about life in the kitchen.

As the moments tick down to lunchtime opening there is a feeling of organised chaos to the work as chefs appear from every nook and cranny with freshly prepared ingredients ahead of the day's service.

Each of the six-person team waits at their designated stations, of starters, mains, desserts and vegetables, ready for service.

There is tension, but the banter between the staff shows that all is under control and they are all set to do their jobs.

But it's obvious the pot washer is about to have a big job on their hands with food-covered equipment from the prep and 50 diners set to walk through the door.

sionally. I understand the need for something swish like fine dining, but if you want to go out twice or three times a week, which is what is starting to happen, you don't want to go to a fine dining restaurant.

"People are comfortable in this environment."

So will the Sportsman spawn an other outlet?

"I am loathed to say no in case I change my mind," Mr Harris says, "but at the moment I still love just having the one restaurant and my creative pleasure is derived from the food that we do."



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Town's in the best of elf with world record

NEARLY 1,000 elves descended on a town centre recently hoping to not only bring a little early festive cheer, but write themselves into the Guinness Book of Records.

As part of Gravesham Borough Council's Twelve Days of Christmas festival, the local authority set out to attract as many of Santa's elves as possible to one place.

And despite the big day still some way off, some 948 headed into Gravesend's Community Square in full costume, complete with pointy ears.

A council spokesman said: "We believe we have beaten the world record of 762 elves, which is currently held by Ammanford in Carmarthenshire.

"The event, Elf Help Day, is part of the festival which represents the 'three French hens' part of the traditional carol.

"The hens originally represented faith, hope and charity and the event is tied in with all of the town's charity shops.

"Each one will receive a donation."

To qualify for the record, the elves had to be dressed in red and green and be wearing a special elf hat complete with ears.

Among the event's supporters was Gravesend's X Factor starlet 16-year-old Tamera Foster.



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With warnings Kent could expect another winter of severe weather conditions, **Chris Murphy** asks...

Are we ready for snow or will we just plough on regardless?

IT HAS become something of a cliché that as soon as the winter starts to bite with snow and ice, the county's transport networks grind to a halt.

And with the north of the country set to be hit by a forecast Arctic blast, there are fears we could find ourselves in the middle of a cold snap as the weather heads south. But organisations insist they are ready for all that Jack Frost can throw at them.

Kent County Council, which has responsibility for our road network, now has its fleet of gritters on permanent standby, while rail infra-

structure firm Network Rail is working closely with train operator Southeastern in monitoring changes on the weather front and both are poised to react.

Even our main airport is on alert.

Across the county more than 180 farmers are ready, as they have been in previous years, with snow-ploughs attached to their tractors in a bid to keep open key rural routes if snow depths reach 50mm.

At the Met Office, spokesman Nicky Maxey said temperatures will remain well-below average for the time of year at least until the weekend, while adding: "Gale-



NOT ALL WHITE: Will this be a common sight in the coming winter months?

force gusts from the Arctic region of up to 70mph will make it feel even colder, and we are expecting wintry showers over high ground.

"There is going to be heavy rain in the south, including London, which may turn wintry over high ground."

KCC insists it is as ready as it can be and said gritters will remain ready to respond until at least April.

It has a fleet of 60 gritter trucks, all with their own names and Twitter accounts, so people can regularly check for updates as they tackle more than 2,500 miles of Kent's major A and B roads, amounting to 30 per cent of the county's roads. They are also fitted with snow-ploughs if and when heavy snow hits.

The authority stressed, however, it is not responsible for schools, offices or car parks.

A spokesman said: "It is up to the people who look after these sites to treat them. The Highways Agency is responsible for motorways and trunk roads, and Medway Council looks after roads in the Medway area."

Because there is so much for KCC to cover, footpaths tend to take a back seat while roads are tackled.

If there is a prolonged bout of ice or snow, however, they will take the job on.

But there are priorities. These include shopping centres, schools, railway stations, bus stops, medical centres and doctors' surgeries, residential homes, industrial and commercial centres, and steep gradients.

In total, KCC is currently sitting on 23,000 tonnes of salt, distributed across eight depots around Kent.

It is down to Network Rail to keep railway lines open and despite jokes about the 'wrong type of snow' it is still working to clear tracks faster than

in previous years.

If the weather does turn bad, it is pinning hopes that heating strips installed on the 'third rail', which carries power to the trains, will do their job and rapidly melt snow as it falls.

They were initially fitted to notorious lines between Ashford and Maidstone, and Tonbridge to Orpington, and results were so good the scheme has been extended with an extra 2,000 metres of the strips fitted in the county. There are plans to fit another 70 kilometres on lines to London from Ramsgate, Dover, Faversham, Ashford and Medway.

Commuter trains are also being fitted with anti-icing devices which spray special fluid onto the conductor rail in front – the liquid rapidly melts ice, similar to that used on car windscreens.

Network Rail has 12 carriagesspecially fitted with ploughs to clear lines. These will be attached to diesel locomotives which, of course, are not affected by the need for electrical contact.

High-speed services tend to escape the worst of the problems by virtue of using overhead power lines.

Meanwhile, Thanet's Manston Airport said it annually reviews its winter operations plan to ensure it is able to operate safely.

It said procedures must be in place to enable aircraft operations to continue during conditions of snow and ice.

UK airports, including Manston, have collaborated to address severe disruption at some airports in recent times. Under the auspices of the UK Airports Winter Operations and Resilience Forum, Manston takes industry best practice and implements its severe weather plan accordingly.

A spokesman said: "Specialist snow-clearing equipment is held for immedi-

Following the KCC gritters on Twitter



Covering the east of Kent:

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#NittyGritty
#Salty
#Gritsy
#SnowDestroyer
#SirGritalot
#Thor
#Sprinkle
#Stormtrooper

Covering the north west:

#Iceotron
#JackFrost
#Gritterati
#Frosty
#Grit4u
#Snowmageddon
#Eskisnow
#SaltShaker
#SnowQueen

Covering the mid and west:

#SnowGlow
#ShowSnowMercy
#SnowEater
#AuntyFreeze
#Margrit
#GritBritain
#TheGrittalo
#Snowminator

ate deployment. Manston also has grit spreaders to clear car parks, footpaths and passenger walkways surrounding the terminal.

Companies are also braced for action... or at least they should be, warns business chiefs.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, which covers much of the county, said: "If you are running a high street shop or commercial business, having a contingency plan is vital if bad weather is coming."

"Heavy snow has a negative effect on businesses on both sides of Christmas. It is a particular concern if roads are bad because it will encourage people to do more internet shopping which has a knock-on for the local businesses they would have used."

"Snow not only affects shops, but also the movements of staff and vehicles at suppliers."

"We have had so many bad years of weather, but I question if we are really equipped to deal with it properly."

The county will be keeping its collective fingers crossed this time it can.

• **What do you think? Will the county's transport network crumble again? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

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24 Week ending December 1, 2013

KMI

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Competition

Win tickets to see Ben's Michael Jackson tribute at the Orchard

THE magic of Michael Jackson comes back to life on stage this month with one of the late star's most celebrated tribute acts returning to the county.

A host of hits from the iconic performer's legendary back catalogue will be performed – including classics like Thriller, Beat It and Billie Jean.

The songs and dance moves are recreated by a performer who simply goes by the name Ben – another homage to one of the star's hit records.

He moonwalks onto the stage at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford this month... and what's more you can be there for free, courtesy of our great competition.

We have teamed up with the Orchard Theatre to offer five pairs of tickets to the show on Friday, December 20.

To enter simply answer the following question:

What was Michael Jackson's biggest selling album called?

- a) Chiller
- b) Thriller
- c) Killer

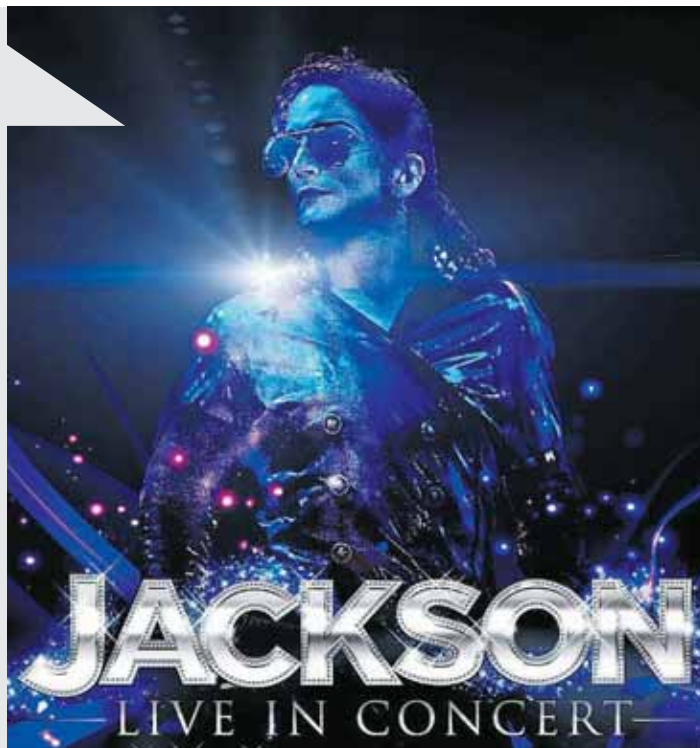
To enter, text KOS followed by JACKSON2013 and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, e.g. KOS JACKSON2013 C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT.

Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate. Winners

will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditions apply – full details of which can be found on our website – www.kentnews.co.uk.

Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of December 10, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by BBA Digital. Helpline telephone 0844 3572403.

Alternatively enter by post to Jackson 2013 Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth TN25 6SS, including your name, address, postcode and contact telephone number.



KoS karters enjoy thrill of the chase for charity



AT THE READY: KoS Media's go-karting night featured 35 advertisers' teams and raised £2,629 for Kent Air Ambulance

IT WAS a night of high-speed thrills and spills as hundreds descended on the county's top karting circuit, Buckmore Park, recently.

In a special event staged by Archant KoS Media, publisher of both this newspaper and our sister title, Kent Life magazine, it gave our loyal advertisers the chance to come along and let their hair down – while raising money for charity.

Despite the cold, the two-hour endurance race saw a full grid of 35 teams.

Each team paid £50 to enter, with plenty of friendly rivalry.

But the real winner on the night was

Kent Air Ambulance.

It was the recipient of more than £2,629 raised – more than £600 of which came from a sealed bidding method to buy a better place on the starting grid.

Last month, more than £1,100 was raised for two charities – the Pilgrims Hospice and children's hospice chYps, during the inaugural Kent Life/Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards at Maidstone's Tudor Park.

Publisher at Archant KoS Media, Simon Irwin, said: "Evenings like this get us closer to our clients and allow us to

get to know each other better outside a business environment.

"We all had a great time with our customers at both events and raised thousands of pounds for deserving causes.

"Congratulations to everyone who took part at both events and, most importantly, for digging so deep to raise such a lot of money for charity."

• **To find out about the commercial opportunities Kent on Sunday and Kent Life can bring your company, ring our sales team for a friendly chat – they'll be happy to outline the options available. Telephone 01303 817150.**

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AGE-OLD PROBLEM: Wonga is among a number of high-profile payday loan firms regularly seen on our TV screens



Payday loans cap welcome but still 'too late' for many

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PLANS by Chancellor George Osborne to introduce caps to limit the sky-high interest rates charged by short-term cash lenders will be "too little, too late", according to outspoken opponents.

The boom in so-called 'payday loan' companies – offering relatively small sums, but with interest rates in excess of 5,000 per cent – has proved one of the few success stories of the economic downturn; for the firms, anyway.

Fuelled by banks pulling back on lending and increasing financial pressure felt by those struggling with soaring energy bills and stagnating salaries, there has been widespread criticism of the ease consumers can access the money and the interest rates offered.

But this week Mr Osborne insisted the Government was going to rise to the challenge. He confirmed new rules and caps would be introduced over the next two years.

For thousands of families in Medway, claims Vince Maple, leader of the Labour group on Medway Council, such moves will come too late to save them, and many others across Kent, from financial ruin.

He has long campaigned about the proliferation of these loans from companies like Wonga because they can often lead to families getting into major financial problems.

Cllr Maple said: "In the next two

years while we wait for these caps to be put in place, thousands of families in Medway will have suffered at the hands of these payday lenders.

"The caps need to be introduced as fast as possible. Every day lost in waiting will mean someone else will fall into the financial trap, unable to pay back their loans as interest spirals."

Wonga is perhaps the best-known loan provider, with a high-profile marketing campaign. It claims the high percentage rates can sound worse than reality – providing the loans are paid off in the agreed time.

Borrow £150 for 18 days and you'll be paying back a total of £183.49 – the equivalent of 5,863 per cent APR.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £84.5 million for 2012, an increase of 35 per cent on the previous year. In its annual statement, Wonga reported £1.2 billion in lending, an increase of 68 per cent.

Errol Damelin, Wonga founder and chief executive, said recently: "Access to practical and affordable sources of credit is a big issue for our society and Wonga is playing a part by lending responsibly, and at scale, to people who can generally afford to pay us back quickly."

The industry claims because the loans are supposed to be over very short periods, this makes the APR look artificially unpalatable.

The problems occur, however, when those short-term loans can't be paid back in time. Then costs spiral, swollen by late payment charges.

As the costs mount up, many quickly find themselves in dire straits.

A CLEVER MOVE

IAIN Ramsay, professor of law at the University of Kent, said there are also political repercussions to George Osborne's decision.

He said: "The surprising decision by the Government to require the Financial Conduct Authority to cap payday loans is a clever move by George Osborne.

"It overturns the recommendations of the new Financial Conduct Authority which proposed not to cap interest rates, characterising capping as a very 'intrusive' intervention in the market.

"Successive UK governments refused to cap high cost credit claiming there was not enough evidence on the impact of caps or that they might have a detrimental impact on market access.

"Caps exist however in countries such as Canada. They are established in a manner which permits many companies to continue to make a reasonable profit.

"Capping them in the UK is clever because it permits the Government to demonstrate it is willing to do something for consumers while also legitimating the industry."

George Osborne plans to use the Banking Reform Bill, presently working its way through Parliament, as the platform from which to launch the restrictions.

Under the new law, the new industry regulator Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) will have a duty to introduce price controls.

Mr Osborne said: "Now the regulator will go away and decide what is the best form of cap."

The FCA takes over as the industry regulator in April 2014, and changes are unlikely until 2015.

Cllr Maple added: "We have been campaigning for this industry to be better regulated for more than two years, so the announcement there will be a cap brought in on the total cost of credit is welcome.

"Here in Medway we know there are many households where lives have been ruined by these companies.

"There is still more work to be done on this issue. We still need to see councils given the powers to be able to stop the growth of these companies on the high street.

"We also need to see a levy on these companies to fund an expansion in credit unions serving our communities as an ethical alternative."

Australia has already introduced similar caps in a bid to crack down on the situation there.

Cllr Maple added: "We need to get this right, and get it right first time.

"We see tens of thousands of people in Medway go to the Citizens' Advice Bureau for money help; granted, not all are from payday loans, but that

number is also rising rapidly.

"We need to do something now, not wait another two years. We need to give local councils more powers to limit the numbers of these loan shops taking over our high streets."

Mr Osborne said there would be controls on charges, including arrangement and penalty fees, as well as on interest rates, and added: "It will not just be an interest rate cap. You've got to cap the overall cost of credit."

Russell Hamblin-Boone, chief executive of the Consumer Finance Association, which represents the major short-term lenders operating in the UK, said: "We are surprised by the Government's announcement as we already have voluntary caps on the number of times a loan can be extended and on fees and interest for people in financial difficulty.

"If the objective of the proposed cap is to drive out rogue lenders, the Australian experience has had some success, however it has not reduced household debt or the need for credit.

"Instead there has been an increase in the number of people who turn to the growing illegal lending market, which the Australian regulator has admitted is a problem.

"We look forward to the detailed discussions as to how a cap on the cost of credit will actually benefit consumers in the UK and impact on the availability of flexible credit."

• **What do you think? Share your views.** Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

Council at loggerheads over report's accusations

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SENIOR political heads at a controversial district council have come out fighting after a damning report found standards of behaviour by councillors was so appalling it had led to suspicions of corruption by the public.

No stranger to the limelight – albeit in many instances negative – Thanet District Council (TDC) found itself in hot water again after a probe by independent members of the standards committee revealed a shocking list of alleged misdemeanours by members.

These included personal attacks on individual members of the public during council meetings and in newspaper columns, refusal to comply with democratically agreed decisions, and outright hostility to the public and other councillors.

To add to the drama, when the report was released it was rejected by the ruling Labour group – prompting the resignation of all four independent members of the standards committee who had been behind it.

Politicians were left fuming and have hit back at claims.

Clive Hart, leader of Labour-led TDC, said the “ambiguous, broad-stroke manner” of the report had tarnished every member and “done no service whatsoever”.

“Nowhere in this report is there any reference whatsoever to the vast majority of hard-working councillors who literally give thousands of hours service to local residents year after year,” he said.

He stressed that words such as “unscientific, suggestions, suspicion and appearance” meant the report was “ambiguous and riddled with halve truths and innuendo”.

The findings, however, are difficult to brush aside due to the council's somewhat chequered past.

Last year saw disgraced former council leader Sandy Ezekiel jailed for misconduct – something which the report stated had an adverse effect on perception of the council.

In 2012, a Tory councillor was cautioned by police after leaving the message, “With any luck you'll get Aids” on a bisexual member's phone.

Just recently, Green Party councillor Ian Driver uncovered a debt of £3.4 million owed to TDC by the now defunct TransEuropa Ferries

resulting, he claimed, from secret fees and deferral arrangements between the council and the operator. The council claimed it was not a ‘secret’, but was commercially sensitive.

Earlier this month, a member was arrested for sexual assault; a claim he denies.

Leader of the Conservatives at the council, Bob Bayford, admitted it was never going to be an easy task for the independent members who drew up the report.

He added: “We accepted the report's main conclusions and we repudiate the torrent of criticism directed at the report and its authors during last Thursday's standards committee meeting.”

Members voted to return the report back to the independent members who drafted it for further consideration. Committee members “overwhelmingly” felt elements of the report required evidence before it could be considered.

In a statement, TDC said: “The council takes the governance of the authority very seriously and has a code of conduct in place which sets out the high ethical conduct expected of its councillors. All councillors agree to comply with this code.”

“Many of the issues raised within the report are as a result of potential breaches of the code by a very small minority.”

Discussions are now under way to see how the council can move forward.

However, council leader Clive Hart did little to defuse the situation – pointing the finger of blame at one, unnamed, individual.

He said: “I'm pretty certain that virtually every councillor will agree there is now just one particular councillor whose anarchistic tendencies and total disrespect for chairmen, the constitution and procedures is trying to bring the council and every one of us into disrepute.”

He stressed that members represented the public to the best of their ability.

Adding: “As for the situation ‘adversely affecting the delivery of services’ I have to say I'm proud to be the leader of a council that is as busy and efficient as any in the county. We are still one of the most progressive councils in Kent with a host of award-winning projects.”

• **What do you think? Share your views by writing to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**



ROW: Thanet District Council saw the four independent members resign after Labour rejected their findings in the report

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GARDEN WORLD

'Complacency' over stalking must change for law to work

Clare Bernal's tragic murder prompted a change in the law on stalking, but there are claims the police and CPS are still not using its powers to the full...

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IT WAS a brutal murder that shook the nation and one which would later prompt a seismic shift in the country's criminal justice system.

A pretty beauty consultant callously murdered as she got ready to go home from her job at London department store Harvey Nichols.

Her killer, Michael Pech, calmly walked up behind his victim and shot her in the back of the head and then three times in the face, before turning the gun on himself.

For tragic Clare Bernal, 22, who grew up in Tunbridge Wells, it was the bloody conclusion to a terrifying stalking campaign in which Pech, a security guard at the store, had followed her, stood outside her house, bombarded her with phone calls and texts, broken a restraining order and, most significantly, made threats to kill.

A month before her murder on September 13, 2005, the 30-year-old Slovakian – who had dated Clare for just three weeks earlier that year – had been in court charged with harassment, a crime deemed the same level as an anti-social behaviour order (Asbo).

Tragically, it would take Clare's murder to help prompt a change which would see a specific law for stalking brought in. It would, campaigners hoped, see greater clarity over stalking and highlight the seriousness of the crime.

Under the new law, which was implemented exactly a year ago this week, stalking carries a maximum six-month sentence and stalking involving a fear of violence or serious distress carries a maximum of five years in prison.

Clare's mother Patricia Bernal, from Tunbridge Wells, helped found Protection Against Stalking which was instrumental in pushing through the law change.

But one year on, the mood is a far cry from the jubilant celebrations seen last year when the new Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 was passed.

Protection Against Stalking says there continues to be a lack of training, awareness and funding for specialised services across the criminal justice system with regards to stalking.

"Don't get me wrong," Ms Bernal told KoS this week, "it's fantastic this law went through, but it's all very sad that a year later it's not really gone anywhere."

"Unfortunately, there is still complacency; a lot of police don't get it, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) doesn't get it. There have only been a few convictions since its implementation."

Ms Bernal, who believes her daughter might still be here had more stringent measures been in place before her death, said stalking had to be recognised as dangerous.

She stressed there needed to be better training for authorities, not just to help victims, but to work with offenders.

"We need to concentrate on rehabilitation," she said, "Early intervention is also the major issue here. The more it's understood, the more likely it won't spiral out of control."

"There needs to be more training, more investment. More than anything, it's the CPS. It needs to understand what stalking is about."

Paladin, an organisation helping victims of stalking, carried out a survey to gauge what changes the new law had made within the criminal justice system.

It found that of all the forces in England and Wales, just 33 offenders had been found guilty under the new Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Six of those stalkers received jail terms and



VICTIM: Clare Bernal, 22, was shot dead

the remaining 27 were handed community sentences. During the first six months, there were 320 arrests and 189 charges nationally.

Kent Police saw its first successful conviction under the new stalking law in March.

Michael Key, 28, of Hythe Road in Dymchurch, was jailed for 51 weeks and given a five-year restraining order for stalking involving serious alarm or distress.

Key had subjected his victim to a two-month ordeal involving hiding in her shed, threatening to 'tear the house apart' and, in one particularly terrifying incident, waking to find him at her bedside holding her hand.

Kent Police stressed its officers received the training to tackle stalking.

Detective Chief Inspector of the Kent Police public protection unit, Andy Pritchard, said: "Since the law was amended in October last year, to include specific offences for stalking, we have made 22 arrests for these crimes."

"All our front line officers, including all new recruits, receive training with regards to the application of legislation around stalking and it is something which we treat very seriously."

Ms Bernal said measures were not being implemented quickly enough and stressed lives were still being lost.

Some 120,000 victims, mostly women, are stalked each year nationally. Before the new law came in, around 53,000 were recorded as crimes, but only one in 50 led to an offender being jailed.

She said currently, and despite the law change, it seems to be all about the perpetrator.

Ms Bernal said her daughter felt she had nowhere to turn when Pech was stalking her.

Clare was receiving up to 50 texts and phone calls a day, at all hours, with Pech declaring his love to her.

In a joint statement this week, Protection Against Stalking and other victims' charities called for mandatory training for criminal justice professionals, widespread availability of specialist information, professional psychological and emotional support for victims, and punishment/treatment for perpetrators.

The CPS in the south east failed to respond when contacted by KoS.

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drive through europe

The man keeping the King of Pop's spirit alive

Sittingbourne's own Michael Jackson tribute Ben Bowman talks to **Greg Miles** about impersonating his hero

A CHILDHOOD obsession has turned into a globe-spanning career for Sittingbourne's very own King of Pop Ben Bowman.

As a youngster, performing was all he ever wanted to do, and he had some high standards to live up to in impersonating his idol, but Bowman has managed to make the transformation to Michael Jackson after years of hard work and dedication.

The former Minster College student is in the second year of his first theatre tour, giving audiences the full Jackson experience with a nine-piece band and five dancers; he comes to The Orchard Theatre in Dartford on Friday, December 20.

This all follows eight years of touring nightclubs, singing at functions and corporate events and giving the odd private performance for Middle Eastern royalty.

There is no stone left unturned in his unstinting efforts to become Jackson, and it was the relentless hours of singing and dancing to his tunes as a youngster that sparked the idea for his career.

"I was sat around the table in the science class and my friend asked me how the new song went and I just impersonated his voice and she said I should do something with it," said 27-year-old Bowman.

"I did my first gig at a working-men's club and it was £2 a ticket. I had a part-time job in a supermarket and I asked everybody who came through my

checkout whether they liked Michael Jackson and put a flier in their bag."

If he ever had spare time in his youth, you could bet it was filled with something to do with Jackson.

"We didn't have much money growing up – we didn't have CDs or we weren't out buying tapes all the time. But my brother and I had our mum's record collection. She had stacks of LPs," he said.

"We played them back to back and upside down.

"Every morning and every evening I watched as much as I could. If YouTube had existed back then, I would have been constantly

“I would have gone as far as surgery, but I have never had the time to do it. I am that dedicated that I would go the whole hog with it”

on a computer. I watched everything I could get hold of."

In trying to become someone else, especially one as complex as Jackson, you have to take on every small detail of their personality.

"There are so many mannerisms, you could not ever stop learning stuff. You could watch something you've seen a thousand times and learn more," he said. "That's probably the



OBSESSED: Ben Bowman leaves no stone unturned in his tribute show

hardest bit. A lot of people ask about the dancing, but it's actually the mannerisms.

"You need to be ready for everything, including how to react to something from the crowd, all the time.

"I spent a lot of time listening to the audio from the interview with Martin Bashir. I put it on my MP3-player when I used to go cycling.

"You have to listen to the way he speaks and everything to be able to give the whole performance. I want people to feel like they're coming to see him. It's something I can switch on and off.

"My friends always laugh when they see the crowds because they know it's me, Ben.

"I feel most comfortable on stage. Giving the best possible show is very important to me."

Bowman, who saw his idol perform at Wembley, would be willing to not just stop at the costume and styling when it comes to his tribute show... he thinks that surgery could complete the act.

"I would have gone as far as

surgery, but I have never had the time to do it. I am that dedicated that I would go the whole hog with it," he said.

"If I'm to do this for a great period of my life, then that's it. People ask me about that or Britain's Got Talent, but it's a case of being tied down and not having the time. I have just worked and worked on tours and in clubs."

The longevity of tribute acts is always a conundrum – as with all walks of life, trends come and go, but there are certain artists that will surely stand the test of time.

That's a view shared by Bowman, who hopes to continue in his role as long as he can, such is his immovable passion for it. However, he is willing to give other things a go in the future.

"I'm a live-for-the-moment kind of person – I don't think too far ahead in the future," he said.

"Sometimes I think I would like to write my own stuff. I could never see myself getting bored with this, though.

"I thought about being a writer

Continued on page 31 »

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BLONDE female, 5ft 11ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

KAREN 55, fun loving, attractive, young at heart, seeks caring, affectionate man, 55-65 who loves animals and the simple things in life. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408813**

ROSA, 27yrs, seductive foreign beauty. Seeks no strings discreet fun, any area. Call to hear my desires. ACA. Tel No: **0905 002 1960 Box 408093**

MANDY blonde, blue eyes, voluptuous, honest, likes animals, walks, socialising, seeking older gent, late 70's early 80's. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408741**



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SELSEA 43, driver, own home, N/S, 5ft 8ins, slim, dark hair, green eyes, confident, outgoing, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 40-48. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408405**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: **0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. Blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? Call me if you're normal and lovely. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867**

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company, WLTm loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408625**

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HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745**

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533**

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421**

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707**

JOYCE 83, widow, WLTm gent with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for true friendship with a little romance thrown in for good measure. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407457**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

CARIBBEAN female, 50, honest, caring, thoughtful, seeking male for LTR. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408231**

SUE 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135**

KIA 42, blonde, blue eyed, shapely, kind, caring, honest, seeks male, 70-80. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 391807**

JULIE big blue eyed blonde size 12 glamorous granny, 40's, likes a good firm with a nice wine, walking, meals out, seaside, seeking young at heart male 40-55yrs Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 393475**

HI I am Sally a single 28yr old female, pretty, size 8-10 with a GSOH and fun to be with looking for similar lonely male for mutual companionship, dates and more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407951**

CANDY 42, blonde, voluptuous, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012**

JENNY 60, divorced, likes most things, seeks N/S male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 406655**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

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SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love/70 look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 369593**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

CLAUDIA affectionate loving 29yr old sensual female who enjoys to keep active seeking professional male up to 50yrs for discreet adult 1-2-1. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405807**

ROSS very broadminded smoker looking for lots of fun and laughs with similar genuine, loving, kind, male, single, dad, welcome, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407929**

STEPHANIE 29, 5ft 5ins, large built single mum of two, GSOH, loving, honest, bubbly, romantic seeking similar male/dad. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407613**

KATIE slim racy female, likes cars, horses, dogs looking for tall experienced male who knows how to make me happy and please me. Daytime meets preferable. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407045**

LONG dark winters days are on their way, seeking male to help female 66 to share life with Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407649**

SUE 65, slim, animal lover, 5ft, blonde, likes socialising, meals out, theatre, countryside, happy go lucky, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405767**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 404121**

MARIA 30 dark hair/eyed size 12, attractive, outgoing, easily pleased, likes nights in/out, seeking romantic loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407301**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Thanet. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

LISA tall slim blonde divorced mum of one, 39yrs OHAC, employed, wicked SOH, WLTm male who like me loves life, for good nights in/out and quality times. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 402259**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

BORED fed up and lonely too? Lorraine pretty petite solvent blonde, active, professional, likes nice food/wine, holidays, seeking similar male to spend quality time together. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407007**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

I am Eve 31yrs, slim with dark hair and blue eyes looking for a fun loving, genuine male for possible relationship. Single dad welcome. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407601**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

DENISE attractive single mum, OHAC, likes animals, socialising, cinema, meals in/out, WLTm genuine romantic for possible relationship. Single dad welcome. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407447**

SOPHIA beautiful, slim, sophisticated, loves living life to the full, enjoys many interests, seeks generous businessman who would appreciate a sensual woman. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407467**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

PAULINE pretty professional blonde, great curves, life and soul of any party, seeks tall, well built male with passion for life to get together with. Looks/unimportant. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 339087**

SUE Attractive girly female with mad sense of humour, curvy, lovely and feminine, WLTm large built manly man to fall in love with. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407493**

JACKIE young looking slim attractive sexy 34yr old lonely girl looking for Mr Right who wants to get to know me and wants a good time doing it. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407205**

MICHELLE petite slim red-haired 39yr old social butterfly, loves countryside, horses, having fun, seeks loving guy with GSOH for fun times in and out. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405603**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

JULIE blonde petite nurse loves holidaying, socialising, horses, WLTm happy man who fancies taking a chance on me, I promise you'll be glad you did. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405819**

BLANC eyed blonde, likes cinema, dancing, meals out, animals, N/S, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 402541**

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189**

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575**



DIANE average sort of lady seeking an average sort of man who will love me for who I am, appreciate my life, consider my interests and want to get to know me. ACA. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 402265**

JACKIE 38 looking for that special genuine guy also looking for love and to fill that lonely gap in their life, any area. ACA. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407013**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 406059**

CLARE easygoing 34yr old professional, OHAC, financially independent, enjoys holidays, nights in/out, WLTm male for time of liaisons without ties. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 406831**

TRISH shy divorced attractive female, slim, petite, genuine, caring, enjoys holidays, countryside etc, seeking similar nice male to hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 406697**

JULIE attractive slim petite female with nice smile and pretty blue/green eyes, many interests, WLTm nice sincere gent with GSOH to enjoy life with. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 406703**

KAY sporty outdoorsy female who loves animals, walking and keeping fit, seeks non serious fun, kind, caring male who can show me a good time. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 406377**

MICHELLE petite slim red-haired 39yr old social butterfly, loves countryside, horses, having fun, seeks loving guy with GSOH for fun times in and out. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405603**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

JULIE blonde petite nurse loves holidaying, socialising, horses, WLTm happy man who fancies taking a chance on me, I promise you'll be glad you did. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405819**

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FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575**

MARIE voluptuous female looking for discreet naughty guy to help me get back into shape and enjoy adult fun along the way. What are you waiting for call me. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405285**

MAZ Curvy 38yr old African female, enjoys travel, cooking, WLTm loving male who will look after and care for me in return for life and more. Any age/looks. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405239**

NINA black beauty, classy 21, loves to have lots of fun, seeks older man who is willing to come up with a few new ideas for adult fun times. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 381361**

AMANDA loving curvy female with a really big heart and lots of love to give, WLTm romantic caring man who would love me back. Pls call. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 404029**

Gay Seeking

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VICKY attractive slim 32yr old nurse, new to the market with no hang ups, enjoys nights in/out, dancing, music, looking for caring man for romance and more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407035**

LOVELY and fed up, needs cheering up, seeks male to lift spirits of 66yr old female, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407419**

BORED fed up and lonely too? Lorraine pretty petite solvent blonde, active, professional, likes nice food/wine, holidays, seeking similar male to spend quality time together. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 407007**

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189**

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: **0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575**

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« Continued from page 29

as well – that's one of my back-up plans. I keep all my notes from the shows and will put together my memoirs one day.

"I'm always reminded by my good friend and manager, though, who says 'If you're not going to be Michael Jackson, what the hell are you going to do?'"

As it stands, he is in a niche market in the UK and hopes to take his show farther around the world.

"There aren't as many Michael Jackson impersonators in the UK as you might think – there are only a few of us," he said. "I think we are the biggest touring company I know."

"I'm not sure there's a huge amount of interest for it in the States. His popularity dropped there in the early 90s. There is a huge demand for it over in Japan, though."

That fall in popularity was down to accusations of child abuse and a court case in 2005 in which Jackson was cleared of a range of charges.

It was a difficult time for fans of Jackson, who died in June 2009, and even more so for Bowman, whose prospects hung in the balance as he started out on the road to becoming Jackson's tribute act at the time.

"You always consider the worst-case scenario for things. Worst case in this scenario could be

“There aren't as many Michael Jackson impersonators in the UK as you'd think - there are only a few of us”

career-shattering for me," he said.

"I honestly believe in my heart of hearts that he was innocent. I would have been devastated had anything happened to him. Everything I have got and achieved over the years has been because of him."

Among Bowman's career highlights are playing at tribute-act festival Glastonbudget in Leicestershire to a crowd of 16,000 and a trip out to Dubai for a royal birthday.

"I was in Liverpool at the time and my management rang me up and told me to get to London as soon as possible for a flight to Dubai," he said.

"I got to the hotel and stayed for the night and was told I would get a call from the people who booked me the following day."

"I was picked up and I asked the lady if it would take long to get to where we were going, and she said 15 minutes to get to the palace."

"Palace?" I said. It turned out I was performing for the fourth-birthday party of the Prince of Dubai on a stage inside the garden."

From Middle Eastern princes to fans in his home country, Bowman is clearly striking a chord: "We were thinking about going to Europe next year, but with the reaction and the rebookings from all the theatres we are staying here for the meantime."

"I can confidently say 2013 has been the best year of my life."

■ Ben Bowman in Jackson Live In Concert will be at The Orchard Theatre in Dartford on Friday, December 20. Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm, are priced from £19. To book, phone 01322 220000 or alternatively visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



DEDICATION: Fanatical Ben Bowman had help from choreographers to learn some of the moves but spent hours as a youngster watching videos and listening to interviews to perfect his Michael Jackson show

KMI

Get your flags ready for patriotic bonanza that returns to Leeds Castle

THE popular Open Air Classical Concert will be returning to Leeds Castle next year.

Tickets have already gone on sale for the gig, on Saturday, July 12, which features the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by John Rigby and plenty of patriotic flag-waving.

Special guests on the night include the Military Wives Choir returning for a third year and aerial displays, military bands, field guns and a stunning fireworks display.

Organiser Heritage Events said: "This is more than a concert, it is a whole experience."

"With a diverse classical programme, interwoven with specially-selected choral and solo pieces, and the visual spectacle of military musicians, field guns, superb fireworks and iconic

aircraft displays, the Open Air Classical Concert at Leeds Castle is one of the most awe-inspiring events of the summer calendar."

Victoria Wallace, chief executive of Leeds Castle Foundation and Enterprises, said: "We were delighted by Heritage Events and their spectacular Open Air Classical Concert in 2013."

"Glorious weather, a great programme, amazing aerobatics and fantastic fireworks all complemented the gorgeous backdrop of the castle and we are looking forward to another superb event in 2014."

A special early-bird ticket offer is available until Tuesday, December 31, priced at £30 for the picnic style and £40 for seated. This rises to £39 and £49 in June.

■ For more information, visit www.heritageevents.co.uk.

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Week ending December 1, 2013 31

Stay-at-home dad earns £10K prize as top saver

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

EVERYONE loves to save money, but it became a necessity and is now a job for the nation's No 1 super-scrimper Ricky Willis.

The Tunbridge Wells man has been named the country's best saver by money-saving website Savoo this month and in doing so netted a £10,000 prize and 12 months of support and advice from Savoo.

Ten weeks ago he gave up his job to be a stay-at-home dad while his fiancée Naomi continued working as his wage did not cover childcare costs.

They had just £6.20 in the bank, barely any food in the house, just a few nappies left and seven days until payday.

That is when Willis started his award-winning Skint Dad blog, on which he gives advice and tips on all manner of things about cutting costs.

"Everyone wants to save money, it's just about knowing how to do that," he said. "I have got our food shopping down from £120 to £40 a week and we are not eating any worse – we are eating better.

"It's more about education, really,



BLOGGER: Frugal Ricky Willis

and knowing what to do with things. For instance, if the bananas are going off, you might not use them, but you can make banana bread.

"People are so busy nowadays they don't cook from scratch. I would rather waste time doing that than spend more money.

"Every Friday night we used to have a takeaway, but now we have a fakeaway. I did an Indian the other night for £2.57 for four people and we made our own naan bread."

There was a time, though, when he was not so frugally minded, running up debts, some of which he still has, of about £40,000.

"It was lifestyle debts," he said. "A few years ago we were having to

borrow money to pay rent and we both lost our jobs, so it built up.

"We have both been in denial. It's only since we have started talking about it that it has become easier. I just wish someone had come and told me then what I'm telling myself now.

"I'm going to use a percentage of the prize money to pay off the debt and invest the rest in myself."

Willis is now hoping to build his website and work as a money-saving expert.

"I see people struggling and if I can show them something to help, it might give them the inspiration they need," he said.

So what are the best bits of advice he can offer?

"I always raid the reduced aisle in the evenings at Morrisons and Tesco," he said. "I use mysupermarket.co.uk as well. It compares all the big four shops.

"On a Sunday afternoon I meal-plan for the next two weeks. Instead of making a shopping list, I make a meal list of the ingredients.

"Instead of doing buy-one-get-one-frees on my own, I get my sister or a family friend to come shopping with me instead. We would then buy something and split the cost."

■ **For more information about cutting costs, visit Ricky Willis's website www.skintdad.co.uk.**

Time Out Top Ten

1 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Wednesday, December 4
www.atgtickets.com/folkestone

Royal Marines Band Charity
Christmas Concert: Festive music from military band. Tickets £22.40.

2 Winter Gardens, Margate
Tuesday, December 10
Phone: 01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

Union J: X Factor stars warm up for first headline nationwide tour with intimate show. Tickets £23.50.

3 The Astor Theatre, Deal
Sunday, December 8
Phone: 01304 370220
www.theastor.org

Simon McBride: Talented Northern Irish blues-rock guitarist on tour. Tickets £15.

4 Theatre Royal Margate
Wednesday, December 4
Phone: 01843 292795
www.theatreroyalrmargate.com

Steeleye Span: Pioneers of folk-rock reunited with singer Maddy Prior for new tour. Tickets £19.50.

5 The Orchard, Dartford
Fri and Sat, December 6-7
Phone: 01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

Christmas With The Rat Pack: Festive twist paying homage to Sinatra and Co. Tickets £18.

6 The Marlowe, Canterbury
Sunday, December 8
Phone: 01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

Roisin Conaty: Star of Channel 4's Man Down on new comedy tour. Tickets £12.

7 Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Friday, December 6
Phone: 01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

Seann Walsh: Rising comedy star with his new show The Lie-In King. Starts 8pm. Tickets £12.

8 Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, December 6
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

Nabucco: Ellen Kent's grand opera of revenge, jealousy and destruction. Tickets from £24.

9 Rochester Castle Gardens
December 6-8 and 13-15
www.visitmedway.org
01634 338141

Rochester Christmas Market: Up to 100 stalls featuring Christmas gifts. Entry is free.

10 Stag Community Arts Centre, Sevenoaks
Friday, December 13
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

Cong Faith Healers: Enjoy a unique blend of music from blues, gypsy, Latin and more. Tickets £12.

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A turkey is not just for Christmas, is it?

That time of year when the famous fowl appear on our tables is coming round again. **Greg Miles** talks to a farmer who has made Christmas his business.

LIKE The Great Escape on the telly, the mountains of chocolate and uneaten sprouts left on your plate, Christmas just would not be Christmas without turkey.

In the fortnight ahead, millions of them will go from field to factory in preparation for making their next stop at our dinner tables on December 25, and in curries and soups thereafter.

It is a strange love affair that sometimes doesn't have that much love and seems built only on the squeaky foundations of tradition.

If you asked people, most would probably say they only ate turkey during the festive period... or indeed not even then, with pork, chicken, lamb and beef muscling in on the act in recent years.

Bernard Matthews may be the dominant market force, but there are thousands of turkey-farmers on

a small scale that play a crucial part in the build-up to the big day.

The trip to pick up your bird in the week before Christmas has become as important an event as midnight mass for some.

It is a routine for many who visit Duckpit Valley Turkeys at Springfield Farm in Ansore, near the village of Waltham.

Springfield added turkey-farming to its bow 12 years ago.

It fitted in perfectly with the farming calendar, with the four-week-old turkey poults arriving shortly after the lambs were sent for slaughter, meaning there was plenty of room for them until they too were made fit for sale at the start of December.

"I went off to college and came back and the farm was on a smaller scale," said Ian Lockwood, who runs the business with his wife Sharmina, a part-time vet.

"We had the empty sheds which were only used a couple of months of the year, so we thought we would stick some turkeys in there.

"At that point we had a few hundred sheep and a few cows, and

“It would be nice if turkey wasn't just a seasonal food, because if you put anything in breadcrumbs it will get eaten.”

it's a quiet time of year. The ewes are tucked up and the lambs are already sold. We weren't kicking our heels, but it was another option.

"We had some old pigsties that we converted into a plucking room,

for which we had to get a licence from the council. One year we sold 25, then it was 60 and it went up to 200-odd, and it was becoming difficult and now we do about 160. The margins are pretty narrow if you buy a four-week-old poult and it's £12."

Despite its popularity at Christmas, turkey is not something that is eaten regularly around the year, unlike in the United States, where it is commonplace.

"It's a difficult market because after Christmas no one wants a turkey," he said. "It peaks and troughs because one year people will go to Auntie's or the next they will stay at home."

"One of the reasons it hasn't taken off is it's renowned for being so dry. When you're growing up, you put so much cranberry and

Continued on page 34 »

« Continued from page 33

gravy on it to moisten it up.”

Education is the answer as far as taking turkey to the masses is concerned, according to Lockwood.

“It would be nice if turkey wasn’t just seasonal, because if you put anything in breadcrumbs it will get eaten,” he said. “Producing turkeys all year round on this scale just doesn’t add up.

“People need to learn to cook with them. All you see on TV are cooking programmes, which could help. There are a few chefs that are keen.

“We had one year when Delia Smith cooked beef and we had fewer orders because of it.

“You can’t change Christmas can you? It’s all the trimmings, sprouts whether you like them or not. It’s all about tradition.”

“There are more people farming turkeys than you think on this small scale. Small-scale they say is under 10,000 birds. If you have more than 10,000 you come under different regulations.

“It’s quite a limited market. The majority of people pick up their turkey in Iceland or wherever.

“We’ve had people enquire about geese before. They’re very expensive to buy. They’re £20 for a gosling and because they’re made to fly there’s nothing of them. You would pay over

£100 for one to feed five people. It’s ironic because it was the poor man’s food.”

So what are the things to look for when you buy your turkey in the next few weeks, if you haven’t already got it stashed in the freezer?

“If you look at it and it looks blue, then it’s lacking finish on the skin – you’re just seeing the blue tissue under the skin,” said Lockwood.

“What you want to see is a few white stripes – that’s where the finish is. That’s the fat that cooks through. When it cooks, it keeps it moist. You need a meat thermometer, too, which is best put under the wing.”

Surprisingly perhaps, Lockwood and his family are not sick of the sight of turkey by Christmas Day and it is the centrepiece of their meal.

“You can’t change Christmas, can you? It’s all the trimmings – sprouts, whether you like them or not. It’s all about tradition. We cook ours upside down for a bit so it keeps it moist.

“Selling turkeys has become a part of that. When the last one’s gone at 5pm on Christmas Eve, out comes the mulled wine and a stiff whisky.

“For our regular customers it’s part of their routine to come and pick up the turkey. Last year we had 160 people come and pick up their turkeys in three days.

“We get people come from Ramsgate and Margate and someone comes down from London. We had someone from Hong Kong who was coming to see their family. Someone from Germany picked one up on their way through as well.

“I had someone call up once on Christmas morning once asking if we had any spare turkeys.”

BEFORES... AND AFTERS



Talking turkey...

- Turkeys originally came from Mexico.
- It is thought they first came to Britain in 1526 thanks to Yorkshireman William Strickland, who bought six birds from American-Indian traders.
- Henry VIII was the first English king to enjoy turkey, but it was Edward VII who popularised it as a Christmas favourite.
- Domesticated turkeys cannot fly, but wild ones can go a short distance at a speed of 55mph, while they can run at 20mph.
- Some 10 million are eaten in the UK at Christmas and 60 million are eaten in the US at Thanksgiving.
- Israel consumes the most, though, at 13kg per person, compared with 4.8kg in the UK.

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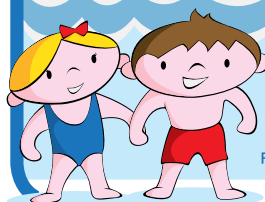
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A royal narrative in the making

The King's Head

Location: Wye

Reviewed by JOE BILL

UNDERSTANDING the 'narrative' of a restaurant is not a new concept to me. However, it is an idea that has only recently taken up any real meaning in my personal dining experience.

Telling the story of your establishment through the food you put on the plate is a great way to stand out from the overcrowded gastropub scene.

It can give a progressive eatery a real sense of identity and a way forward to create its own style.

One of those restaurants developing its own style is The King's Head at Wye.

The old pub was converted earlier this year into a modern pub with its airy spaces, stressed-wood tables and metallic finishes, perhaps suiting the commuter clientele residing in the village.

It looks smart and it's definitely somewhere you could easily lose hours socialising in front of the fire.

There are also village-produced teas, jams and chutneys on sale on the Welsh dresser, but it doesn't

strike a blow for originality until you get to the menu.

Just some of the ideas include Wye Bakery bread and dripping, crispy pig's ears with Tartare sauce and the delicious-sounding venison burger.

The menu also comes with hi-tech QR code (like a barcode), which when you flash your mobile phone over will give you the day's specials.

Happily, for those not technically minded, a short walk to the chalkboard will suffice.

My guest and I opted for a substantial sharing platter to start, comprising pork crackling and an apple-sauce dipping pot.

The home-made crackling pieces were full of flavour without being greasy and offered a classic delicacy with just a little thinking outside the box. It's an obvious winner to start any meal in a pub, isn't it?

My first course was the best of the lot – monkfish cheeks covered in tempura batter. The light, juicy flesh of the fish was complemented by the crispy batter and made for a superb appetiser along with a tangy Tartare sauce.



My guest took on the honey-glazed lamb sweetbreads with rosti potato swimming in a rosemary jus.

Though easily polished off, my guest did think the jus was a little overpowering... a minor quibble.

Sticking to the narrative and using local meat-producer Godmersham Game, The King's Head next served up pheasant breast served with red cabbage and baby carrots.

Though the breast was a little tough on the outside, the succulent centre was very nice. However, it was the extras that caught the eye

– a pork chipolata added that bit of extra flavour to the dish, while the creative 'game crisps' (finely-sliced potato chips) really stood out for originality.

The other side of the table devoured a huge home-made chicken Kiev with seeping garlic butter and sautéed potatoes.

To finish, I opted for a tasty dark chocolate and walnut brownie, which could have done with a little more heat to grab the taste buds in a confrontation with the cold vanilla ice-cream.

My guest, meanwhile, chose the espresso crème brûlée, which had a superb flavour and again added a little twist to a classic dish.

Its airy nature made the pub a little chilly at times, but that could be easily remedied by the proprietors taking advantage of the beautiful open fireplace in the dining room, especially with winter drawing in.

The portion sizes were perfect and the service was spot on despite the influx of dining customers as the evening progressed.

The original ideas are great and the venison burger is still in my sights for my next visit – and there will definitely be a next visit.

Our total bill, including drinks, came out at a meagre £62.45.

The 'narrative' of the pub was maintained through the food, using local producers and variations on country-pub classics.

The menu had some really fresh ideas, hopefully pointing to a great future as long as the team consistently puts out the quality food of which it is clearly capable.

The King's Head is not far away from becoming beautiful Wye's jewel in the crown.

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Vote 'none of the above' at election

IN KoS on November 17, Roger Truelove, deputy leader of the Labour group on KCC, made a plea to young voters to ignore Russell Brand's suggestion they should not vote.

I agree with him, but cannot agree with his conclusions.

Both major parties have let down the electorate while in government, going back decades, and the inclusion of the Lib Dems in this one has not produced any significant change.

Much of the reason for this is that in so-called 'safe seats' here in Kent, and across the country, we have MPs who barely have to bother to campaign at election time, because our utterly capricious voting system allows them to be elected, again and again, by a minority.

Indeed, examination of voting figures in all 650 constituencies at the last general election reveals two thirds of MPs were elected with less than 50 per cent of the votes cast, meaning more voted against them.

Such a flawed system allows MPs, once elected, to completely ignore the wishes of the wider electorate if they so choose, and the result is issues that affect the daily lives of millions are rarely effectively addressed.

Given that, no wonder thousands of people, not just young voters, view voting as a waste of time.

However, non-voting will never change anything, as politicians put it down to 'voter apathy' and as it hasn't affected them winning, yet again, they ignore it.

What is needed to effect change is mass voter 'non-compliance'. Everyone who believes voting is a waste of time should spoil their paper by writing 'none of the above' on the ballot form.

Returning officers', when declaring the result, are not obliged to declare how many potential voters did not vote, but should declare the number of spoilt papers.

Currently the total UK number is insignificant, but if it was transformed into thousands, politicians of all the major parties would be forced to sit up and take notice.

I urge all those who don't currently vote to change their minds. Non-voting makes no statement to politicians. Telling them that none are worthy of your vote, will.

Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone

Here's to charging city 'drinks levy'

FURTHER to your story about Canterbury's plans for a 'drinks levy'

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Unit closure by NHS signals bleak future

AS A former consultant in the psychiatric unit in Medway Hospital's A-block for 18 years, I am appalled by the decision to close this important unit and move it to the Stone House site in Dartford.

Medway has had out-patient psychiatric services from 1950, long before they existed elsewhere in Kent, and then a stand-alone acute in-patient unit, in All Saints Hospital, again, when the rest of Kent had to rely on the three Victorian and pre-Victorian asylums.

I was very glad to move my beds into the brand new unit in 1991.

A-block was an important comprehensive psychiatric service which integrated well with the general medical services in Medway Hospital.

Around 2000, the Government tried to establish that acute in-patient mental health beds should be as close as possible to where people lived, thus a unit for each of the major towns and cities.

We nearly achieved that in Kent, with only Dover and Folkestone not so covered.

But in the last three years all that has collapsed, and acute services are sited, or to be sited,

on only the three old asylum sites: Oakwood Hospital (Maidstone), St. Martin's Hospital (Canterbury) and Stone House (Dartford).

Worse will follow, since every time NHS management – and never clinical staff – decide to move units, beds are inexplicably lost.

Psychiatric beds are now at an all-time low in Kent, leading to enormous difficulties in admission and a frightening increase in ward disturbance, because only the sickest can be admitted.

Management protests that community services will cope in place of beds are born out neither by clinical and families' experience nor by psychiatric research.

Clinical staff morale is seriously damaged and in psychiatry it is clinical people that make the difference.

Of course, the purpose of closure is never made clear.

People may still take action through the unitary Medway Council and to their local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group for Medway, that their citizens are not being well provided for by the Kent & Medway Partnership NHS Trust.

Dr RL Symonds, Broadstairs

on those establishments selling drinks after midnight (KoS, Nov 23) – I think this is a great idea.

Those who profit by supplying often already drunk customers with even more drink should be required

to help with the cleaning up and policing costs incurred.

If they didn't make healthy profits by opening after midnight, they wouldn't do it. If they don't, then close at midnight... it's not rocket science.

If the drunken louts who injure themselves and others were also made to pay towards their medical costs, that might free-up some much-needed funding for more deserving patients.

Just one observation. If I understand your article correctly it will take the council a year to work out a scheme – something most half-decent executives would get sorted in a week, or a month at the most?

And how much will this study cost?
Michael Jaques, by email

Save money at head office first

THE proposal by Kent County Council to increase council tax by 1.9 per cent next year should be decided by the public, not the Conservative councillors.

Tory local communities minister Eric Pickles has decreed a two per cent rise, just above that proposed, should trigger a referendum.

However, I won't hold my breath for a referendum to happen as council leader Paul Carter might not like the answer from Kent taxpayers, who might want to consider other options – like further salary cuts for KCC's top brass.

Dr Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

Taxpayers to foot the bill yet again

CASH-STRAPPED families in Kent are once again being told council tax bills will rise next year.

Public services face more cuts and there's less money for sufficient police on the streets.

Yet because of EU rulings from Brussels, I understand money we give in taxes has to be readily available to provide free housing for immigrants from Poland, Romania, Slovakia and other eastern European countries the same day they set foot in the county.

We also have to provide them with free hospital care, dental treatment, medicines, money to live on and much more besides, while those who pay council tax and other taxes have to go without and are being squeezed to the hilt.

And why should taxpayers have to pay for Paul Carter and other Kent County Council members to swan around in chauffeur driven cars?

Likewise Canterbury City Council's chauffeur driven civic Jaguar; no doubt funded by council taxpayers as well.

It is all wrong and it should be stopped.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
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news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
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Sissinghurst Castle

by **Jan Krefta**
from Medway

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» See this month's Business and Professional Life section inside...

KENT LIFE



Development awards are sign of industry on the up

Design projects urged to compete in annual event and reap publicity which could garner extra business. **Joe Bill** reports

AS THE construction industry continues to come under the microscope during the nation's gradual economic recovery, Kent's regeneration chiefs have launched their 10th anniversary awards for the best building projects in the county.

The Design & Development Awards for 2014 aim to recognise the excellence exhibited in Kent's property and construction trades.

Whether it be industrial units, modern renovation of a classic public facility or even a new retail outlet, the best designed projects are urged to come forward and compete.

But a trophy and snappy title for marketing literature are not the only benefits the awards bring to businesses, according to main sponsors Kent County Council.

A KCC spokesman said: "The awards will give businesses the opportunity to gain media attention and valuable publicity to attract new customers."

KCC also hopes taking part will help

boost staff morale and motivation.

Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Mark Dance, believes the more companies taking part in the awards the better the opportunity there is to display the rejuvenation of the county's construction trade.

He said: "Given the current economic improvement, and the fact the county's property industry is showing positive signs of reawakening, there is a lot to celebrate in Kent."

"These awards are an excellent example of partnership between ourselves and the property industry to help showcase Kent's built environment."

Previous winners have included the Turner Contemporary, Dover Esplanade, Hadlow College and Rock-salt restaurant in Folkestone.

There are five categories for businesses to enter, each designed to demonstrate how varied professionals from architects to builders are using their skills to develop and regenerate the county.

Categories include the civils and infrastructure award – looking at bridges, substations, wind turbines and even sea defences.

The commercial, industrial and retail award can include anything from warehousing to office blocks and hotels, while the public buildings award includes the improvement of educational facilities and museums or libraries.

There is also a construction award for the building with the best environmental performance by using "sustainable standards, both during construction and throughout the whole life of the project, as well as minimising the project's impact on the environment".

Director at Maidstone-based co-sponsors DHA Planning, Alex Hicken, said: "There are a lot of exciting development projects coming forward across Kent, and we are confident we will exceed last year's 94

Continued on page 56 »

Workers to get pay rise

UNIONS representing workers in the construction industry are set to accept a six per cent pay increase.

The GMB, alongside fellow unions UCATT and Unite, has agreed to recommend an improved pay offer under the Construction Industry Joint Council (CIJC) agreement, the largest industrial agreement in the construction industry.

A three per cent pay increase should take place from June 2014, with a further three per cent increase arriving in June 2015. There will also be an increase in a number of allowances.

Training, courses & careers

Government gives green light to UCA site redevelopment

GOVERNMENT education chiefs have rubber-stamped plans for the multi-million pound redevelopment of the former site of the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Maidstone.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills said the college had been successful in its application for funding in round four of the College Capital Investment Fund.

It means the centre for higher-level skills will be completely transformed and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities fit for the 21st century.

MidKent College chief executive Stephen Grix said: "Having

spent £86m on our brand new Medway campus in Gillingham and just over £20m on the first phase of the Maidstone campus redevelopment, it was only natural that the higher-level skills centre would be next to benefit from significant investment in the second phase.

"We are dedicated to providing a realistic alternative to university and are confident the courses taught at the centre will help provide the advanced skills many employers are looking for."

MidKent College purchased the former UCA building in 2011 and has already refurbished several classrooms as part of the wider



PLANS: How the former UCA site will look after plans go ahead

redevelopment of the Maidstone campus – both of which are situated on the Oakwood Park complex.

Work on the second phase is due to begin in the middle of next year and should be complete by September 2015.

Malcolm Greer, cabinet member for economic and

commercial development at Maidstone Borough Council, said: "This follows significant investment in other educational facilities,

commerce, culture and leisure over the last five years in the county town.

"We are looking forward to continuing to work with MidKent College to help it continue to meet the needs of local businesses."

Apprentice views are getting better

THE perception of apprenticeships continues to improve, according to a new survey.

A recent study carried out for BAE Systems and the Royal Academy of Engineering revealed one in seven parents believe apprenticeships are the second best route to a career after a degree.

The survey of 2,000 parents of children aged between 11 to 18 showed that almost half would encourage their offspring to take up a training place.

Uni engineering scheme launched

AN INNOVATIVE scheme designed to connect companies in the south east with University of Kent engineering students has been launched.

Set up by its school of engineering and digital arts, the Sponsored Student Scheme programme enables small and large organisations to collaborate with engineering students at an early stage in their studies.

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New Horizons Primary School Parent Information Evening

Thursday 5th December 2013
at 6.00pm

At the Main Hall, Chatham Grammar School for Boys
Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 6JB



New Horizons
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For more information visit:
www.newhorizonsprimary.org.uk

Combined recruitment drive will ensure hotel chain can rest easy

WHILE those in the industry look to get involved in the awards, one major building is getting close to completion.

Canterbury's Premier Inn on the New Dover Road has been in construction for months and is due to open in December.

It is the latest development at the city walls end of the road which has also recently seen huge investment by Canterbury Christ Church University and Canterbury College.

Canterbury College and the city's Jobcentre Plus have teamed up with the budget hotel chain to recruit and train staff for the new hotel.

The chain approached Jobcentre Plus, which put forward several unemployed people for business and customer service training.

This was delivered by Canterbury College's CTR Training Centre to help prepare them for kitchen, restaurant, bar and housekeeping roles.

The company will take on 40 employees by the time the first guests book in next month.

Canterbury Jobcentre Plus has arranged for a further 50 unemployed people to have interviews.

Premier Inn is the latest big client to work



WELCOME: New Premier Inn at Canterbury

with the partnership of Jobcentre Plus and the CTR Training Centre. Together, they have delivered recruitment and training services to companies including Morrisons, KFC and Costa Coffee.

The training was made possible through 'Skills Support for the Unemployed' – a project run in partnership between Canterbury College and Sussex Downs College using money from the European Social Fund.

« Continued from page 55

entries and break the 100 mark for the 2014 Awards."

The winners of the five categories will then go forward to compete for the Project of the Year trophy, awarded to the building or scheme with the greatest level of design quality in Kent.

The KCC spokesman added: "The nominees

will raise their business profile in Kent while attending the awards ceremony and any subsequent events gives firms the opportunity to network with other fellow professionals."

The entrants will be deliberated over by companies including CTP Consulting Engineers, Kent Construction Focus Group, Liberty Property Trust UK and construction and cost management consultants the Woodley Coles LLP.

KMI

kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk

Trade trip vital lesson in battle for global sales

Brains behind war games company hopes to follow in footsteps of Hornby and Subbuteo and achieve worldwide success after Brazil visit. **Joe Bill** reports



ON THE ATTACK: Hawk Wargames hopes to secure a place selling to the international market

IT IS easy to sometimes dismiss certain businesses without realising the enormous money-making potential behind them.

The Warhammer shops and miniature games have become a global hit – encouraging and fostering a hobby which lures people into their store for literally hours at a time.

And now a company based in West Wickham is hoping a recent international deal will help it secure a chunk of the marketplace.

Hawk Wargames has taken part in an exclusive trade mission to Brazil in order to discover how to expand into new business markets.

The games company focuses on the development and production of scale models and sci-fi wargames.

The business' first venture is the 10mm scale battle game Dropzone Commander which has sold more than 7,500 copies since it launched worldwide in July 2012.

Now managing director David Lewis is looking to follow in the footsteps of previous Kent success stories such as Hornby and Subbuteo by exploiting the international marketplace.

Having built the company himself over two years, Mr Lewis travelled to Brazil to receive tips on the South American country's complicated tax system which many businesses find challenging when launching in the country.

The international trade trip, on which a number of other UK companies attended, was a collaborative project lead by the London Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Santander Breakthrough programme, UKTI, British Airways and KPMG.

Mr Lewis said: "I have made some invaluable contacts. I am really keen for Dropzone Com-

mander to be played internationally and am confident there is global demand for a range of innovative wargames.

"I was particularly interested to learn more about Brazil's tax system and receive in-depth guidance and advice on how to overcome difficulties often faced by small businesses looking to expand overseas."

The designer sculpted the vehicles and figures by hand while digitally designing the scenery and backdrops for the games before launching his business.

He said: "Every painted model you see is my own work, as is all the scenery scratch building."

"I've spent countless hours meticulously preparing this and many weeks in the studio shooting the 21,000 individual frames needed for the imagery, as well as many long nights editing."

"I've learned a lot about business through the course of setting up the company... and no doubt I have a whole lot more to learn."

Head of the Santander Breakthrough programme, John Williams, believes Hawk Wargames is an "excellent example of a strong UK business with the potential to grow on an international scale".

He said: "Santander is committed to supporting businesses at all stages of their lifecycle."

"Our international presence allows us to share our knowledge and expertise of overseas markets such as Brazil to help fast-growth businesses unlock their potential and achieve their growth plans."

"Collaboration is at the heart of Breakthrough, which aims to transform the entrepreneurial ideas of today into the successful businesses of tomorrow."

Keep on HMRC's right side... just for the record

Malcolm Trotter is chief executive of the International Association of Bookkeepers, based at Kings Hill. In his latest column, he warns small businesses not to dismiss the importance of keeping records up-to-date and accurate – not only for business success, but to avoid falling victim to HM Revenue and Customs...

ANYONE running a business understands why it makes good sense to keep adequate company and financial records.

The business itself can operate more effectively and efficiently when records are in good order, accessible and contain accurate and appropriate information. They become a useful tool for decision-making.

But are you aware that HMRC is now targeting small businesses to check if they are keeping adequate records?

HMRC first piloted its current approach to Business Records Checks in 2011. This involved checks on the adequacy of small and medium-sized business' records.

The pilots found that around 44 per cent of businesses visited had issues with their record-keeping, while around 12 per cent had seriously inadequate records.

At the moment HMRC may only levy a record-keeping penalty. However, in the longer term, it intends to issue penalties of up to £3,000 for serious inadequacies in record-keeping.

In addition, it can impose further penalties and claim back tax if, for example, previous tax and national insurance calculations and payments have been incorrectly calculated due to poor records.

So what financial records are you required to keep, in what form and for how long?

Businesses are not all the same and the range of records of each will differ.

For example, a self-employed in-

dividual may need to keep detailed records so that they can calculate their personal tax liability and be able to complete a self-assessment return.

Those records include: cashbooks, invoices and receipts, electronic sales records or till rolls, mileage records, bank statements, P60s (if you are also employed), payroll records (if you have employees), rent books, hire purchase records, an inventory of stock on hand and a record of money taken out of the business for personal use.

Records can either be on paper or on computer. Where electronic, the records must capture all the information (including both front and back of paper items), be saved in a readable format and should be backed up.

Further information relating to financial record-keeping for the self-employed, partnerships and limited companies can be found at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

When businesses go beyond the simplest of accounts, they need appropriately qualified and skilled support, either internally or outsourced, who can ensure that they not only comply with HMRC requirements, but also gain the maximum benefit from cash flow and regular financial information to make good and timely business decisions.

The question is not whether a business can afford to keep its finances in good order, but can it afford not to?



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DREAM HOME: Help to Buy is supporting thousands of hard-working people achieve their ambitions of home-ownership, says John Elliott



House-buyers benefiting from kick-start strategy

With the second phase of Help to Buy now launched, **John Elliott**, managing director of Millwood Designer Homes, tells us why he is supporting this Government-backed initiative

MORE than 2,000 people have put in offers on homes during the first month of the second wave of the Government's Help to Buy mortgage scheme, totalling £365 million of new mortgage lending.

The first phase was launched in April as an extension to existing schemes but only provided help to first-time buyers buying new-build homes.

Under the latest phase, brought forward three months early as part of a Government response to the rising cost of living, any buyer can purchase either an existing property or a new-build worth up to £600,000 with a deposit of only 5 per cent.

By underwriting the bank's mortgage lending for a period of up to seven years, the scheme will reduce the bank's risk exposure and stimulate a greater flow of home loans into the real economy.

Despite being aimed at any type of buyer, almost three-quarters of Help to Buy customers were looking to buy their first home, with the majority of couples applying on a joint salary of less than £50,000 and borrowing about £159,000.

Prime Minister David Cameron says

his policy is aimed at those "who work hard, put in the hours and can afford a mortgage – but can't afford sky-high deposits".

So what can be wrong with that?

Plenty, according to the naysayers, who insist the scheme is the latest example of a policy doomed to disaster, citing the cheap mortgage borrowing in the US that triggered the global financial crisis in 2008.

They say cheap lending and a property boom in the South East are the combination that will fuel another fragile, imbalanced economic recovery, leading to demand for homes outstripping supply and a new housing bubble.

I'm beginning to feel like a lone voice in a sea of doubters.

Most of the Help to Buy applicants are first-time buyers, in their early 30s and with an average household income. The scheme is all about helping hard-working people get on the first rung of the property ladder.

Of course, rising demand for housing must be matched with rising supply, and you can't deal with the cost-of-living crisis without building more homes. With a growing nation and a short supply of housing, it is important we all support the development of new homes. This is

key to the success.

I agree Help to Buy must be carefully monitored and swiftly adjusted if it shows any sign of triggering sharp increases in house prices, although I do not believe this will be the case.

The argument is that when mortgage rates do rise, Help to Buy customers may be unable to afford the higher monthly instalments, but interest rates would have to rise a fair amount before homeowners in the scheme ran into trouble.

I am becoming a little perplexed by the wailing of opposition politicians who grudgingly acknowledge that things are getting better.

It seems blindingly obvious to me that salaries cannot increase until businesses start trading at a profit again, which can only happen as the wider economy begins to improve.

Help to Buy has not only helped first-time buyers, it's given the housing market the kick-start it needed, in turn boosting the economy and the 'feel-good factor'.

Thanks to a range of Government-backed schemes, almost 26,000 hard-working people have been given much-needed support to achieve their dreams of home-ownership. For that, let's all be thankful.



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Zinc console table

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All pictures www.mobius-living.co.uk



Eleanor sideboard

This sideboard will be a beautiful addition offering additional storage as well as a characterful look.

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Eleanor glass cabinet

Display your keepsakes in this glass dining cabinet, within a slim design.

Price: £749

Crafted storage

Made from reclaimed wood, this collection includes a bookcase, coffee and console tables, a sideboard and a cabinet, which are just perfect for storing those odd bits and bobs or displaying your prized possessions



Provence coffee table

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Benjamin bookcase

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Update

Alfa Romeo 4C

Price: from £45,000
Driving appeal: predicted ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: Porsche Cayman

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KENT LIFE

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Alfa's supercar success

BUILDING a supercar?

Then your 'must-have' bake-off ingredients ought to include weight-saving carbon fibre for the bodywork and a balanced mid-engine/rear-wheel-drive layout – plus a £150,000 price tag.

However, Alfa Romeo has achieved this feat for just £45,000 with the stunning two-seat 160mph 4C, which sees the Italian sporting marque return to the world of small, lightweight sports coupés.

The company, founded in Milan in 1910, built an early reputation from racing – ironically, one of its drivers and team managers was a certain Enzo Ferrari.

But Alfa's modern-day cult status depends as much on little sports cars produced in a 50s to 70s heyday – cars like the Giulietta Sprint and Spider.

It is the essence of the Italian brand and a return to this formula can also spice an Alfa range recently limited to the MiTo supermini and modern-day Giulietta five-door family hatch.

Now owned by a Fiat empire including Ferrari and Maserati, there seemed little need for Alfa Romeo to try for full-size supercar allure, though it did produce the glorious limited-edition 8C Competizione supercar from 2007-10.

But while the 4C echoes the 8C's swooping lines – for a third of the price – Alfa will not swamp the market with this car, either: just 3,500 will be made a year to serve all markets.

Part of the reason is the one-piece carbon-fibre body; expensive to produce, this delivers great strength and rigidity for best safety and handling characteristics and weighs just 65kg – it is far lighter than aluminium.

Other view...

the Petrolhead

This is what Alfa Romeo has always been about: speed, glamour and style. So nice to see the marque back at the top.

the Woman Driver

This is a real boy's toy, isn't it? Still, it's Italian, oozes style and I can't deny that it looks fantastic for the money.

the Eco-warrior

It might be cut-price, but it's still about conspicuous fuel consumption and that shouldn't have a place in the world today.

Alfa also slimmed the car's glazing by 15 per cent, while the 240bhp 1,742cc turbocharged four-cylinder engine comes from the Giulietta's Cloverleaf sporting flagship but uses an aluminium block, saving a further 22kg.

Helped by further weight paring throughout the 4C and mounted transversely over and driving the rear wheels, where some 60 per cent of the car's overall weight is concentrated, this little engine delivers explosive performance.

The 4C will hit 62mph in just 4.5 seconds, close to Ferrari territory and better than the Porsche Cayman S (4.9 seconds) if inferior to a Lotus Exige (3.8), both cars being the 4C's closest rivals.

Purists might say the 4C should have a manual gearbox option, but the standard twin-clutch six-speed semi-auto transmission comes with Formula 1-style selection paddles on the steering wheel.

And the racing connection doesn't end there; Alfa's excellent DNA

throttle response, steering and handling modifier gains a new Race mode in addition to the Drive, Normal and All-Weather settings found on all other Alfas.

This is no affectation, since many 4C-owners will be track-day fans, keen to enjoy their cut-price supercar to the full.

They are also unlikely to be bothered that, like most supercars, the 4C doesn't have a huge amount of space apart from its two seats.

Anyway, such details are likely to have been forgotten long ago after seeing this baby supercar in the metal – or rather carbon fibre – with its Alfa shield grille cueing two big bonnet flares, a swooping roof line, and those huge intakes abaft the doors.

Rather than being penned by one of Italy's many great automotive design houses, this gorgeous piece of design was also the work of Alfa's own in-house design team.

It's a further sign this once-great brand is firmly back on course.



DREAM MACHINE: Italian car-maker Alfa Romeo will only make 3,500 4Cs a year to be sold worldwide

KMI

Week ending December 1, 2013 45

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11 Reg Chevrolet Spark 1.0i LS 5dr 31,161 miles
10 Reg Citroën C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr 30,055 miles
60 Reg Fiat Panda 1.2 Dynamic ECO 5dr 33,758 miles
62 Reg Fiat Punto 1.2 Easy 5dr 8,088 miles
62 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr 10,250 miles
12 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr [82] 30,399 miles
60 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr [82] 17,635 miles
10 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5dr 27,321 miles
61 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 125 Zetec 5dr 24,432 miles
61 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr 30,692 miles
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.8 Titanium 5dr 54,897 miles
60 Reg Ford Focus 1.8 Zetec 5dr 13,722 miles
12 Reg Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi Zetec Powershift 5dr 30,341 miles
10 Reg Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec Auto [Climate] 5dr 22,011 miles
10 Reg Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec Powershift 5dr 28,104 miles
12 Reg Ford Mondeo 1.6 EcoBoost Zetec [Start Stop] 5dr 33,537 miles
13 Reg Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 Titanium Powershift 5dr 11,605 miles
62 Reg Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium X Powershift 5dr 24,765 miles
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12 Reg Kia Venga 1.4 EcoDynamics 5dr 33,780 miles
58 Reg Land Rover Freelander 2 2.2 TD4 S 5dr 18,565 miles
10 Reg Mercedes Benz B-Class B180 CDI SE 5dr 19,959 miles
62 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr 2,571 miles
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 3dr Auto 11,657 miles
10 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 [122] 3dr 30,915 miles
60 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 [122] Auto 3dr 19,192 miles
10 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 [122] Graphite 3dr 24,122 miles
09 Reg Mini Cooper 1.6 Graphite 3dr 23,823 miles
10 Reg Mini First 1.6 3dr 21,004 miles
60 Reg Mini One 1.6 3dr 22,041 miles
10 Reg Mitsubishi Colt 1.3 C22 ClearTec 3dr 50,256 miles
62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 12,536 miles
62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 15,999 miles
62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 13,630 miles
61 Reg Nissan Juke 1.6 Acenta [Premium Pack] 5dr 20,548 miles
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto 5dr 14,357 miles
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto 5dr 19,936 miles
60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna Auto 5dr 10,977 miles
13 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] Acenta 5dr 2,094 miles
62 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] N-Tec 5dr 13,513 miles
60 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr 22,221 miles
12 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec 5dr 30,509 miles
62 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec 5dr 14,941 miles
62 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec 5dr 14,438 miles
61 Reg Nissan Qashqai+2 1.5 dCi [110] Tekna 5dr 36,391 miles
60 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi 92 Sport 5dr 20,244 miles
60 Reg Renault Grand Scenic 2.0 dCi Privilege TomTom 5dr Auto 11,645 miles
10 Reg Renault Megane 1.6 16V I-Music 5dr 7,055 miles

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£8,383
£13,172
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60 Reg Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom [106] 5dr 13,898 miles £7,742
60 Reg Renault Scenic 1.5 dCi Dynamique TomTom [106] 5dr 33,931 miles £7,222
62 Reg SEAT Leon 1.6 TDI CR Ecomotive SE Copa 5dr 16,047 miles £11,101
62 Reg SEAT Leon 1.6 TDI CR Ecomotive SE Copa 5dr 17,632 miles £11,021
60 Reg SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI CR FR 5dr 20,452 miles £11,932
59 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V 3 5dr 24,408 miles £5,392
10 Reg Skoda Fabia 1.6 TDI CR 90 SE 5dr 24,409 miles £7,812
12 Reg Toyota Avenis 2.0 D-4D TR 4dr 34,454 miles £11,933
13 Reg Vauxhall Adam 1.2i Jam 3dr 5,301 miles £9,181
13 Reg Vauxhall Adam 1.4i Jam 3dr 3,165 miles £9,421
62 Reg Vauxhall Agila 1.0 12V [68] ecoFLEX S 5dr [AC] 5,632 miles £6,621
60 Reg Vauxhall Agila 1.2 16V Design 5dr 7,162 miles £6,052
62 Reg Vauxhall Antara 2.2 CDTi [184] SE Auto 5dr 8,091 miles £17,524
13 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Tech Line 5dr 7,156 miles £12,701
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60 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr 13,201 miles £8,422
09 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv Nav [160] 5dr 47,547 miles £7,152
61 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SE Auto 5dr 37,623 miles £10,664
12 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi [160] 5dr 31,655 miles £10,403
62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi V-Line Red [160] 5dr 7,218 miles £15,901
62 Reg Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Tech Line 5dr 9,150 miles £14,751
61 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi Tech Line 5dr 9,150 miles £11,051
61 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i 16V Exclusiv 5dr 15,899 miles £7,603
61 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusiv 5dr 6,487 miles £9,931
11 Reg Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V [130] Exclusiv 5dr 6,302 miles £8,493
08 Reg Vauxhall Tigra 1.4i 16V Exclusiv 2dr 24,058 miles £4,773
60 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.6i [115] Exclusiv 5dr 20,785 miles £6,621
10 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.6i [115] Exclusiv 5dr 21,272 miles £6,621
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62 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 CDTi SE 5dr 16,912 miles £16,171
57 Reg Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 Luna 3dr 52,466 miles £5,483
10 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.4 TSI SE 3dr 20,601 miles £9,591
10 Reg Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TSI 105 S 5dr 45,878 miles £8,431
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F-Type an E-Type

JUST as the legendary E-Type roadster was followed by an equally desirable coupé, so Jaguar has repeated history with the current F-Type.

Launched this summer, the open-top two-seater is the market's most desirable convertible, and now the resurgent British sporting brand has unveiled a gorgeous coupé spin-off, out in spring 2014.

The 5.0-litre supercharged V8 R Coupé heads the line-up – 0-60mph in 4.0-seconds, reaching 186mph.



Durability crown

AUDI was voted 'most dependable brand' by 600,000 company-car-drivers using the top-50 leasing companies.

The annual FN50 survey by Fleet News, claimed as the UK's largest poll of vehicle reliability, also showed two Audi models in its top 10: the A3 compact hatchback (pictured and fifth) and A4 compact executive saloon and Avant (second).

Audi's A1 supermini, Q3 compact SUV and TT sports car were also highly placed.



Baby is growing up

JAPANESE executive brand Lexus is to upgrade its petrol-electric hybrid CT200h executive hatch model in early 2014, with tweaks to the exterior and major upgrades to cabin quality and refinement, plus class-leading and tax exempt 82g/km CO2 emissions.

The Toyota luxury arm's entry model is vital to recruiting customers from the German exec brands BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz, which have all revitalised their junior executive rivals recently.

Week ending December 1, 2013 **47**



GROUP SHOT: The Vauxhall Astra BiTurbo comes in three body styles – GTC, five-door and Sports Tourer – with performance diesel engines that really deliver

Warming to Astra's hottest little diesel

If you don't feel you can justify running the scorching Astra GTC VXR, Vauxhall has a real-world alternative – the new diesel BiTurbo line-up, says **Steve Loader**

CAR-MAKERS use hot hatchbacks to highlight more mundane yet bigger-selling versions of popular models.

But insuring and fuelling such scorchers is now painful, so hot-hatch numbers have slumped way below those during the type's halcyon days of the 80s when suffixes like XR, GTi and GTE were everywhere.

Fortunately, for those who still want cars with verve and swerve there is a more viable alternative – the performance diesel.

Making use of the diesel's low-end pulling power, this type of car can still scorch away sharply and, with the right chassis, be piloted along a winding road in the best hot-hatch tradition while keeping a grip in another way – on running costs.

Many have a twin turbocharger arrangement, too, with one blower delivering extra urge low down and the other at the top end, where diesels tend to run out of puff.

Which was presumably the thinking behind the Astra BiTurbo line-up, the real-world diesel alternatives to Vauxhall's 'turbo-nutter' GTC VXR petrol three-door hot-hatch with its 280PS (277bhp) and 0-62mph in just 5.9 seconds.

Except the BiTurbo is perhaps just a bit too controlled for its own good.

With a relatively modest 195PS

(193bhp), the five-door model tested here still manages 60mph in 7.8 seconds, but bottom-end power comes in an elongated wave rather than a sudden surge, avoiding any scrabbling when pulling away on loose surfaces but leaving some would-be VXR-buyers feeling a bit short-changed. There's a pleasing bite, though, when pulling out to overtake at high speeds.

Handling is taut on the specially-lowered chassis, which also makes the car look suitably lean and mean, but the harsh noise of the engine accelerating does not get the pulse racing like a petrol model would.

It's not a pseudo VXR, then, and nor does it offer quite the thrill of the Seat Leon 2.0-litre diesel FR we also tested recently.

But maybe I'm not being fair here because the BiTurbo's demeanour does not really shout 'diesel VXR' but something more measured – a useable everyday warm yet sporting hatchback with good manners – and you can also have it in the racy three-door GTC shape or elegant Sports Tourer estate profile.

True, there are sporting accoutrements such as its impressive 18-inch five-spoke alloys, leather-covered flat-bottomed sports steering wheel, its own distinct yet discreet front-end treatment and body kit, alloy sports pedals, two smart oval

Vauxhall Astra BiTurbo 2.0 CDTi

Price:	£24,100
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£125/year
Best rival:	Seat Leon 2.0 FR

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4x4

4x4 interest soars ahead of cold spell

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ANY bets against us having a foul winter after a dismal summer?

To add to the odds in favour we have had a run of winters with more than a dash of snow and ice.

Apart from the weather, we also need to reckon with the deterioration of Kent roads, caught between several tarmac-cracking winters and budget cutbacks – despite the county council's increased repairs programme.

So it's perhaps no wonder the arrival of the traditional four-wheel-drive vehicle buying season looms larger than usual, also highlighting a reconciliation with the type, which once earned a bad

reputation with consumers as wasteful gas-guzzlers when the economy took a downturn.

From being the fashionable darlings of city-dwellers who liked to suggest they were country people, they were suddenly cast as the villains of the piece.

But even 4x4s have got greener as the buying public grapples with its eco-conscience as well as that other eco – economy, forced upon us all by the recession.

As a result, there has been a reconciliation with what we like to call the 'funky chunky' 4x4 look.

Indeed, lots of so-called 4x4s or SUVs (sports utility vehicles) are not even four-wheel-drive any more.

So read our special section to find out more about 4x4s and SUVs and which ones may suit your needs.



FUNKY CHUNKY: The 4x4 looks of the Skoda Yeti and Honda's fourth-generation CR-V have been a huge hit with buyers looking for a 4x4 feel

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Model shown is RAV4 Invincible 2.2 D4-D 150 5dr AWD £28,200. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £495. Prices correct at time of going to press. *4.9% APR Representative and £1,000 Finance Deposit Allowance is available on retail sales of new RAV4 when ordered between 1st October and 2nd December 2013 and registered through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ by 31st March 2014 on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0-35% deposit. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 12p per mile. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Toyota Dealers are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

All New RAV4 Range Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 30.7 (9.2) - 49.6 (5.7), Extra Urban 46.3 (6.1) - 64.2 (4.4), Combined 39.2 (7.2) - 57.6 (4.9). CO2 Emissions 176 g/km - 127 g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

4x4



Size really does matter

THERE are so many shades of 4x4 vehicles now, ranging from big and beefy go-anywhere true off-roaders down to so-called 'soft-roaders' or SUVs.

The latter might not have the ground clearance to go yomping over rough terrain, but drive to all four wheels can kick in for extra grip when it matters – and they're cheaper to buy and run, too.

The breakthrough has been the arrival of more economical but punchy diesel engines and cheaper

all-wheel-drive systems, allowing the car to run in two-wheel-drive most of the time, saving fuel, emissions and tyres while automatically reverting to 4x4 if sensors recognise that traction is being lost by any of the wheels.

At the top end, though, 4x4 is usually permanent with true off-roaders and comes with two sets of gear ratios: one for normal conditions and a second and much lower set for extra power and traction when the going gets really tough.

Sometimes this is packaged as a system that allows selection of a mode according to terrain or conditions, leaving the car to work out the best gears and chassis set-up faster than the human at the wheel.

But bulk and grunt are not everything; weight can be a curse in tough situations and lighter 4x4s can be just as effective, providing there is enough ground clearance and you don't expect Herculean climbs in mud or snow.



WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET? Toyota's legendary Land Cruiser (above) is one of the great go-anywhere 4x4s, but Renault budget brand Dacia (left) has the answer for those needing cut-price off-road 4x4 performance – the Duster

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Yeti range: Urban 28.0 (10.1) to 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 40.9 (6.9) to 67.3 (4.2), Combined 35.3 (8.0) to 61.4 (4.6). CO₂ emissions for the Yeti range 189 to 119g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Our top **10** 4x4 driving tips

By **Steve Loader**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DON'T ever think a 4x4 makes you invincible.

Yes, extra driving wheels and weight equals more traction when conventional cars are losing grip or sliding about, but a 4x4 can still skid if you do not treat treacherous conditions with respect.

What's more, the extra bulk of an off-roader can cause things to happen quickly if you overcook things.

So, here are our 10 top tips for when things get tricky:

- Use dipped headlights – snow flakes or driving rain, like fog, will simply reflect light back at you.
- Watch your speed – things happen fast on slippery surfaces. Keep a stopping distance equivalent to what is visible and clear ahead of you and do not follow the vehicle in front too closely. As a yardstick, stopping distances are 10 times longer in snow and ice.
- Softly does it – gentle use of the accelerator, brakes, clutch and steering prevents loss of control. Avoid wheelspin when pulling away by selecting second gear



WARNING: Whether driving a 4x4 SUV or a highly capable all-wheel-drive car like the Skoda Superb Estate 4x4, you must still take care in tricky conditions

- and easing in the clutch.
- If the car has a specific mode for the driving conditions, then select it – the onboard computer thinks and reacts faster than you.
- Right gear – anticipate gear changes ahead of a new gradient.

Be in the right gear to start climbing rather than risk loss of control with a hurried change halfway, and reduce the risk of a skid by selecting a lower gear on descent – first gear in the lowest set of ratios, if fitted, gives

maximum control in tricky conditions. With an auto-transmission without a manual override, there should be a 'low' drive or 'terrain control' option for snow and ice.

- 'Think high' on the flat – lower

gears work best on gradients, but higher is best on level ground, while a lower gear increases the car's torque or pulling power and, therefore, the chance of a skid from a clumsy foot on the accelerator.

- Clean feet – knock off snow, ice or mud from your boots or shoes in case they cause your feet to slip on the controls.
- Clear before you go – remove snow and ice from the mirrors and windows for maximum visibility and clear the bodywork and roof, too, to avoid snow sliding on to the windscreens and obscuring your view.
- Enough fuel? Never set out in bad weather without adequate fuel. If forced to halt, you may need the spare fuel to keep the car heated until conditions improve or help arrives. Pack some drinks and provisions before leaving, too.
- Snow chains – if you intend driving to the Alps, you must pack them or risk a fine from the police. And do check the vehicle's manual beforehand to determine which wheels you need to fit them on. Don't ever think a 4x4 can do without them if the going gets tough.



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*Rental stated is for Dacia Lease. If you choose Dacia Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract, you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: Dacia Duster Ambiance dCi 110 4x2, advance rental £4070.49 inc VAT followed by 48 monthly rentals of £119 inc VAT. Final rental £3847.18 inc VAT. A finance facility fee of £139 is payable with the advance rental. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Ltd, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1PJ. Conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply for finance. †Free servicing available for 3 years/36,000 miles (whichever comes first) on new Dacia Duster Ambiance dCi 110 4x2 and 4x4 and Dacia Duster Laurate dCi 110 4x2, when purchased through Dacia Lease. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Vehicle must be serviced at an approved Dacia dealer and in line with the manufacturer's service programme. Services must be completed within 1 month or 1,000 miles of the service interval. Excludes any additional work not included within the service programme, such as wear and tear, maintenance and tyres. If the vehicle is sold before the service plan expires, the cover remains with the vehicle and is transferred to the new owner. Available at participating dealers only. Offers available to retail customers only on specified vehicles when ordered and registered by 31 December 2013. Metallic paint available at an additional £495.

Do I really need a ‘Full Monty’

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GOING 4x4 is a no-brainer if you work on a farm, work on or visit construction sites or live in a rural area where mud, ice and snow can bog you down.

Some would-be buyers also need a 4x4 for towing; these can pull greater weights and all-wheel-drive is a major reassurance when doing so.

On the other hand, they are not a cheap option if you rarely need the full 4x4 potential, which is why smaller and less expensive SUVs (sports utility vehicles) have evolved.

These deliver all the image and often just as much space as a top-grade 4x4, but they are less costly to run, being lighter and usually equipped with an automatic all-wheel-drive system that mostly runs in front-wheel-drive, either by manual selection or by an automatic function – the latter diverts more power and grip to the rear wheels if onboard sensors decide that help is needed.

Then you must decide on the powertrain: diesel is the preferred choice as it gives good low-down power when a 4x4 needs it – in other



4X4 DASH FOR LESS CASH: The Fiat Panda 4x4 and Kia Sportage are two superb-looking and affordable all-wheel-drive models that tick all the 4x4 boxes

words, when the going gets tough. It's also better for fuel and emissions, but diesels can cost more upfront than petrol models, so you need to cover more miles to recoup the extra outlay via fuel savings.

Hybrids are also available and the economies of the hybrid format make more sense on bigger vehicles anyway.

Another question is: how many seats? Some models offer five or seven and best advice is to go for the latter if you can afford it as there will always be a time when you need those extra seats, and these cars tend to depreciate less as there is more second-hand demand.

In addition, cars designed to hold up to seven are almost certain to have more load space, too, but this means they may be bulkier than you need; for many people the attraction of modern SUVs is getting the 4x4 look without having to worry about parking at the supermarket.

And you might realise you don't even need all four wheels to be driven...

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4x4... or even one at all?

RECESSION has had a seismic effect on 4x4/SUV-buying habits.

At first, the need to cut back made consumers turn away from the higher running costs of what were generally bulkier and heavier cars.

But manufacturers countered with smaller, lighter and more convenient editions; buyers realised that they could have their 4x4 cake and eat it.

A little later, there was a further shift in the market, and one that might have been thought of as heresy a few years ago: 'two-wheel-drive 4x4s'.

Car-makers had tried this tactic before and it bombed spectacularly; buyers then may have realised deep down that being a 'townie' and driving a 4x4 was a bit of a sham, but they weren't about to give up on authentic 4x4 power.

The recession and greater eco-awareness changed that, so now we have SUVs and crossovers that look rough and tough but sip the fuel and return lower CO₂ emissions.

And removing the rear transmission from a 4x4 vehicle not only cuts weight but can also liberate underfloor space in the boot.

These 'pseudo-4x4s' come in two formats: 'SUV Lite', which are front-wheel-drive versions of models

also available with 4x4, and crossovers that are a rugged-looking cross between family hatchbacks, SUV and MPV, mixing the best of the three types.

Thanks to the weight saving, they can also be more fun to drive, suffering less body-roll on bends, and deliver a smoother ride.

They also prove a point we all knew deep down: our craze for 4x4s was just as much about looks as it was about getting a grip.

So, be honest about what you want from your 4x4/SUV/crossover.

If it's about style with economy, then go front-wheel-drive, but if you have to battle terrain and the elements where you live or do heavy-duty towing – a boat, trailer or caravan perhaps – then full 4x4 is king and you shouldn't compromise.



4X4 LOOKS WITH 2X4 ECONOMY: Front-wheel-drive versions of the Toyota RAV4 (left) and Renault's stunning front-wheel-drive-only Renault Captur offer 4x4 style with economy and lower emissions



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Come with us on a relaxing river cruise on the majestic Rhine and beautiful Moselle rivers in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Prinse Christina as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. To join the ship, we travel by train from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Cologne, via Brussels - with just one train change. Alternatively, fly to Cologne from Gatwick.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Cologne OR return flights from Gatwick
- 7 nights on full-board on the MV Prinse Christina sharing a twin outside cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available
- Welcome cocktail on arrival
- Cup of coffee/tea each morning and afternoon
- Captain's dinner on night before departure
- Live music one evening
- Transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: DF2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departure
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£849pp**
Departs 25 February, 2014

CHAMPAGNE
CHECK-IN

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous champagne bar.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras & return rail travel (from Ebbsfleet on request)

- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris
- 6 nights in Diano Marina with buffet breakfasts and dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local beer, wine & spirits
- Included visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco and Cervo
- All transfers abroad

MENTON LEMON FESTIVAL, NICE CARNIVAL & MONACO



QUOTE: ML2-2-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£399pp**
Departs 21 February, 2014

Come with us to see the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals and visit Monaco. We fly from Gatwick to Nice and stay in chic Beaulieu Sur Mer. On the French Riviera we travel to Nice, Menton and Monaco on the scenic coastal railway and enjoy great views along the way.

INCLUDED:

- Return flights from Gatwick to Nice with cabin baggage

- Return transfers from Nice airport to hotel
- 3 nights B&B in 3-star hotel between Nice and Menton
- Return rail travel to Nice, Monaco and Menton
- Reserved grandstand seat at Menton Parade
- Services of a Tour manager in the resort

FERRARI - LIVE THE DREAM IN MARANELLO



QUOTE: FE3/10-KOS

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£499pp**
Departs 27 March & 16 October, 2014

Come with us to Maranello in Italy - home to the world's most famous sports car maker. Our tour takes in the The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum, the Fiorano test-track and Viale Enzo Ferrari. We stay at a Ferrari themed hotel and have the opportunity to take a Ferrari out for a spin.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout abroad
- 3 nights B&B at the 4 star Maranello Village Hotel
- Return Easyjet flights, with hand luggage, Gatwick to Bologna
- All travel and excursions abroad

ITALIAN LAKES - COMO, GARDA & MAGGIORE



QUOTE: LC6-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
9 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£1129pp**
Departs 23 June, 2014

CHAMPAGNE
CHECK-IN

Come with us to the Italian Lakes where the mountains roll down to the water's edge. We travel by Eurostar from London to Paris and by overnight train - with private 2-berth cabins - to Verona. We stay in a lakeside hotel on an all-inclusive basis including free drinks.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar to Paris and Thello rail travel to Verona, returning from Milan in a 2-berth overnight sleeper cabin
- 6 nights in a deluxe room at the 3 Star Britannia Excelsior Hotel on an all-inclusive basis
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad

GRAND DANUBE 4-STAR RIVER CRUISE



QUOTE: DC-KOS

Escorted Fly-Cruise
9 days, from **£1099pp**
Departs 6 July, 27 July, 17 August & 5 October, 2014

Join us for a majestic cruise on the famous Blue Danube. With a tremendous variety of scenery, historic cities, romantic towns, superb architecture and cultural jewels, Europe's second longest river offers an incomparable river cruising experience. Ports of call include magnificent Vienna and Budapest, with overnight stops at each, and Bratislava.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout abroad
- Return flights, with hold luggage, to Munich from Gatwick
- 1 night hotel B&B in Germany & 7 night full board cruise on the MS Serenity in a standard twin bed, outside cabin
- Transfers abroad

TUSCANY COAST & COUNTRY EXPLORER BY RAIL



QUOTE: TR5/9-KOS

Escorted Holiday by rail
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£899pp**
Departs 23 May & 20 September, 2014

Come with us to incomparable Tuscany. The Tuscan seaside town of Forte dei Marmi has been described as the region's Beverly Hills and here we enjoy free drinks every night at our hotel. We will visit Lucca, Pisa, Florence and Portovenere - with access to stunning Cinque Terra. There is also the opportunity to visit Portofino.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in or near Nice & 6 nights in Italy with 6 buffet breakfasts, 6 dinners & Free Drinks from 6pm to 10pm every night
- Excursions & transfers



FLEXIBLE: Motability buyers have the same range of choices as anyone else, from estates like Skoda's Octavia to fashionable SUVs like the Hyundai ix35

Liberation through Motability

MOTABILITY has radically changed the way disabled people and their families live their lives.

The Government-backed scheme enables them to get on the road for much less than it would cost them to buy or lease a new or nearly-new

car privately and helps them with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

On top of that, the scheme's regular payments can take care of everyday running costs, from insurance, maintenance and

repairs to breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when the cost of motoring is soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist that the disabled person is the driver; the car is made available for the benefit of that person, which

means that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

■ For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see inside this special supplement.

www.renault.co.uk

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WWW.MOTORLINE.CO.UK



The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault core range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2)–94.2 (3); Combined 36.7 (7.7)–88.3 (3.2). The official CO₂ emissions for the range are 178–83g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

Advance payment offers are only valid for Motability applications to 31 December 2013 and are correct at time of going to press. Motability is a trademark of Motability. Registered charity number 299745.



SPACE OR PACE: Former Invacar-users would have been amazed that today they could be owners of cars like the capacious and stylish Renault Scenic XMOD or sporty Alfa Romeo MiTo (right)

How Motability crushed the Invacar

TRANSPORT aid for the disabled used to be limited strictly to those who could drive themselves. And this was usually in the form of a notoriously unstable light-blue three-wheeler with room for the driver only – not much use for families – and a tendency to tip over on corners or in high winds. It all changed in 1978, with the

launch of the Government-backed Motability charity, which calculated an allowance disabled people could use towards a vehicle of their choice. It removed the stigma of the blue Invacar – taken off UK roads in 2003 – and also opened up transport to disabled people who couldn't drive themselves. Since then, more than three

million cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs have been sourced through Motability, allowing disabled people to go shopping, do voluntary work, visit friends, go to the doctor, do sport, give a family member a lift or go on holiday – all things the motoring majority takes for granted. Some users have even been able to take up further education or pursue

better jobs and careers, having been liberated by their new mobility. The scheme was modified earlier last year, though, to streamline the procedures and prevent some misuse creeping into the system. The key changes were:
■ Streamlining list of cars available
■ Nominated drivers must live at or within five miles of the applicant's

address, though special circumstances will be considered
■ Drivers under 25 are restricted to cars with an insurance group of 16 or lower and with a power output of 115bhp or less
■ Drivers under 21 are only permitted to drive Motability vehicles in cases where they live with the disabled customer



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Premium quality without the premium.



HYUNDAI ix20 ACTIVE 1.6 AUTO
from nil advance payment



Hyundai ix35 S 1.6 GDI
from £399 advance payment



Motorline Hyundai – Maidstone 0843 658 2644 Bircholt Road, Parkwood, Maidstone ME15 9YN
Motorline Hyundai – Canterbury 0843 658 2657 Units 2b & 2c, Westminster Road, Canterbury CT1 1YY

Models shown: ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment, ix35 S 1.6 GDI in Sleek Silver metallic paint with £399 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers available until 31st December 2013, inclusive and are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.
Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 Auto: Urban 34.0 (8.3), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 43.6 (6.5), CO2 Emissions 154 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 S 1.6 GDI: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO2 Emissions 158 g/km.

UP to two nominated drivers can drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them.

The drivers may be friends or relatives, and parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three years or older.

The car only has to be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such as a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car.

A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability

Motability fact file...

Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- A choice of some 2,000 car models

- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000-mileage allowance over three years.

Car dimensions vary: seat height, door-opening angle and storage

space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure the car and Motability is right for you.

Many special adaptations are available free to help with speed

and steering, signalling and safety, stowage and seating and access.

The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car. Some 600,000 customers currently choose Motability and 97 per cent say they would recommend the scheme to their friends.



MOBILITY ON A TIGHT BUDGET: Kia's Rio supermini (left) and Skoda's new Rapid Spaceback family hatch are both economical stars of the road – a major concern for today's motorist

ENJOY THE ALFA ROMEO MITO FROM NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT.



The sporty Alfa MiTo embodies both style and practicality. It's equipped with the latest driver aid technologies, including Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), Hill Holder – for those tricky hill starts, and our revolutionary TwinAir engine technology, giving enhanced performance.

To receive further information or a complete list of all the Alfa Romeo cars available on the Motability scheme please contact us.

£0 ADVANCE PAYMENT*

The New Alfa MiTo 105 bhp Sprint** with an extra 20 bhp offers more power and virtually the same fuel economy.^

SAFETY

Awarded a prestigious 5-star Euro NCAP rating, making it one of the safest cars in its class.

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Unique Alfa D.N.A. driving switch with 3 driving modes – Dynamic, Natural and All-Weather to suit all road conditions.

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Model shown is Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 bhp Sprint MY'14 at £14,350 OTR† excluding Etna Black Metallic Paint at £450. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa MiTo range: Urban 34.9 – 64.2 mpg (8.1 – 4.4 l/100km); Extra Urban 58.9 – 97.4 mpg (4.8 – 2.9 l/100km); Combined 47.1 – 80.7 mpg (6.0 – 3.5 l/100km), CO₂ emissions 139 – 90 g/km.

*Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

*Advance payments are correct at time of publishing and subject to orders being accepted by 31 December 2013. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & conditions apply.

**Prices are based on DLA recipient, War Pensioner advance payments on request from your local Alfa Romeo Dealer. Advance payments are correct as of 1 October 2013 and subject to orders being accepted by 31 December 2013. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Alfa Romeo UK Ltd, Fiat House, 240 Bath Road, Slough, Berks SL1 4DX. Customer Helpline 00800 2532 0000. www.alfaromeo.co.uk.

^The Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 85 bhp engine 67.3 mpg vs. 67.2 mpg 875cc TB TwinAir 105 bhp.

†On the Road Price includes 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures correct at time of printing. Offer subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. See our website for full details.



RESEARCH: Motability's website function can help you track down the best car for your needs, be it a compact, spacious Hyundai ix20 supermini MPV or Kia's rakish five-/seven-seat Carens MPV

MOTABILITY'S range of more than 2,000 vehicles can seem daunting. Fortunately, the scheme's website has a search function allowing users to quickly create a shortlist of comparable cars, taking account of buying parameters and mixing typical consumer searches and the specialist needs of Motability users. Search by car details takes a consumer-style approach and includes:

- What kind of mobility allowance the user has

Information-centred

- What level of advance payment the user intends to pay, if anything
- Preferred car type, make, model and number of doors
- Whether the user wants a manual, semi-automatic or automatic gearbox
- Whether the driver is under 25
- There are two other search programmes: Search by Accessibility Needs, taking account of car measurements; and Search for a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV).
- There is also excellent advice on what type of car to look for, in language more relevant to disabled users, such as:
- How smaller two- or three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles that may make access easier but may be both harder to close generally

- and harder to open wide in narrow parking spaces.
- How hatchbacks have a raise-up rear door or 'hatch', which could make it harder for a wheelchair-user to open and close or access items, or simply be problematic when opening in the garage.
- Extra space in estate cars can be more convenient for a disabled person as the load area may be used to carry disability aids, but the vehicles can be longer and bulkier.

SIMPLY CLEVER

The ŠKODA range is available from £0 advance payment

Citigo from **£0** ADVANCE PAYMENT

Fabia from **£0** ADVANCE PAYMENT

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Rapid from **£0** ADVANCE PAYMENT

Octavia from **£0** ADVANCE PAYMENT

Yeti from **£0** ADVANCE PAYMENT

Superb from **£995** ADVANCE PAYMENT

Motorline ŠKODA Canterbury Vauxhall Ind. Est., Westminster Road CT1 1YY 0843 658 2604 www.motorline.co.uk/skoda

Motorline ŠKODA Dartford 555 Princes Road, Dartford, Kent DA2 6HH 0843 658 2618 www.motorline.co.uk/skoda

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 83.1 (3.4). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range 217 to 88g/km. Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Worry-free means everything is included

- Use your mobility allowance
- Breakdown recovery
- Road tax and insurance
- Servicing and maintenance
- 60,000 mileage allowance
- Specialist advice

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people
motability.co.uk

Not sure if you qualify for a Motability car? Call 0800 953 4002

58 Week ending December 1, 2013

KMI

kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk

Tips on making your Motability choice

SMALL CARS: Tend to have lower advance payments, running costs and CO2 emissions than larger vehicles. Two- and three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles, which makes access easier, but closing the door and fitting in narrow parking spaces may be harder. Four- and five-door cars benefit from superior back-seat access – useful if you often have more than one passenger.

MEDIUM CARS: Are often sold as hatchbacks and will have a slightly

bigger boot than a standard small car. The same doors argument applies as for small cars.

FAMILY CARS: Family cars are large four-door saloons or five-door hatchbacks and are considerably larger than medium-sized cars. Hatchbacks usually have more boot capacity.

ESTATE CARS: Usually longer than a standard saloon or hatchback, with useful space for mobility aids in the boot, but this can add to the car's

bulk, so make sure you check it out with a test drive before committing.

MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLES (MPV): Ranging from small to large, MPVs can seat up to nine people. The seats are higher, with more headroom, legroom and width. Some have large sliding side-doors, which obviously improve access for those with disabilities.

4X4 AND SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES (SUV): The term '4x4' is usually used to describe vehicles

designed for off-road use, which generally have higher ground clearance. Until recently, all 4x4s had four-wheel-drive, but many people now buy for the SUV styling and opt for a front-wheel-drive-only version to save fuel.

COUPÉS, ROADSTERS AND CABRIOLETS: Coupés are small and sporty-looking, seating either two or four people, but may be compromised for disabled users due to their two-door format, low-down and cramped seating and smaller boots.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAVs): WAVs are cars converted to carry passengers travelling in their wheelchair or those who wish to drive from a wheelchair. WAVs may be best if you have trouble getting in and out of the car from your wheelchair and would prefer to remain in it when travelling as a passenger. WAVs come in different sizes and have many standard features. The Motability website has a specific WAV Search that will help you find your requirements.



HIGH SPIRITED: The Alfa Romeo Giulietta (left) and Renault Clio (right) deliver five-door hatchback convenience plus rakish looks, allowing Motability users the chance to have fun on the roads

Nissan Motability range from **£NIL** ADVANCE PAYMENT



NOTE ACENTA 1.2 5DR



- 15" alloy wheels • Bluetooth Compatibility • Cruise Control
- CD/ Radio with 4 speakers • Drive trip and eco computer
- Electric windows • MP3 Aux input • Steering wheel audio controls
- Stop/Start System • USB Socket • ABS with EBD and Brake Assist
- ESP (Electronic Stability Programme) • Air conditioning

£NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT

JUKE ACENTA 1.6 5DR



- Nissan Dynamic Control System • CD radio with MP3 playback
- Bluetooth phone integration • USB port • Cruise control
- Audio steering switches • Front fog lights • 17" Sport alloy wheels
- Climate control with pollen filter • Internal chrome door handles
- Trip computer with temperature gauge

£49 ADVANCE PAYMENT

QASHQAI ACENTA 1.6 5DR



- Chrome-trimmed LCD combimeter • Drive computer
- CD radio with 6 speakers • Audio with Bluetooth compatibility
- Ultrasonic rear park system (RPS) • Cruise control with speed limiter
- Dual zone climate control air conditioning • Ultrasonic alarm system
- 17" Alloy wheels • AUX socket for MP3 players • USB port

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www.motorline.co.uk/nissan

Sales department opening hours: 8.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Saturday and 10.00am-4.00pm Sunday.

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg(l/100km) for the Nissan range are: Urban 16.6 (17.0) - 54.3 (5.2), Extra-urban 32.1 (8.8) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 24.0 (11.8) - 65.7 (4.3). Official emission figures range from 275-99/km

The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. This programme is subject to the standard conditions of the Motability three-year Contract Hire Scheme. Full written details and quotations available on request from a Nissan Authorised participating Dealer or Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373878) and are subject to applications received and accepted with Motability Operations by 31st December 2013. Under the scheme the vehicles are leased from Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373878), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Vehicle shown is for illustration purposes only.

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350 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Two Part-time Associate Staff Required

**Cover Supervisor
NJC Grade D2**

£15,039 - £19,126 pro rata

We require a full time Cover Supervisor for 37 hours per week, term time only to start in January 2014. Salary will be NJC D2 point 12. The role is for one term only in the first instance from 6th January 2014 until 14th February 2014.

The school will use the cover supervisor to enhance our pastoral structure and allow teachers to be at the forefront of learning.

- Do you relate well to young people?
- Could you support students at times when they meet barriers to their learning?
- Would you be able to liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of individuals?
- Would you be interested in developing your skills with classes of young people?

**Learning Support Assistant
NJC Grade 2**

**Part time
20 hours per week**

£15,039 - £19,126 pro rata

We require a Part-time Learning Support Assistant from January 2014 to cover maternity leave for 20 hours per week, 5 days a week. The successful candidate will work closely with the SENCO at this 'Outstanding' grammar school.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a similar role would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School was designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy, All Hallows Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities. We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – 9th December 2013

Interviews will be taking place on 11th December 2013

Aspire – Achieve – Excel



Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy Creative & Visual Arts department at our Medway Campus. We currently have vacancies within the following area:

Vocational Skills Tutor

Part Time only (0.5)

Salary: £28,263

pro rata, depending on qualifications and experience

Location: Medway Campus

Closing: 04/12/2013

Ref Number: P091

An experienced teacher is required to teach Level 1 students with a range of learning needs and abilities within a thriving area of the curriculum. You will be required to teach personal and social development as part of a team within a creative arts curriculum. The ideal candidate will have experience of working within FE education, has good knowledge of working with learners at level 1 and is passionate about re engaging learners within education. Experience of employment within the creative arts subject sector would be beneficial.

To apply for this position please contact

job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.



**Experienced Quantity Surveyor;
Ceilings, Drylining**

The Invicta Group (www.theinvictagroup.co.uk) are looking for an experienced quantity surveyor to join their Ceilings, Drylining and Partitions division.

The role will encompass running Ceilings, Dry Lining and Partitions projects ranging from £10,000 to £750,000 in value in the London and Kent areas (projects already secured).

Previous experience in estimating and contracts management an advantage.

Package to be negotiated in line with experience. Company car included - full and current UK driving license essential.

Please send your CV and a brief cover letter to careers@theinvictagroup.co.uk

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Win a Car Dash Cam! Plus one of 10 Autoglym Winter Care Kits

Drive24 has teamed up with Wilcodirect.co.uk to bring you the perfect winter car gift. We have a **Mio MiVue 338 Dash Cam** and 10 **Autoglym Winter Care Kits** to give away to our London and Kent readers!

First prize:

- **Mio MiVue 338 Dash Cam** with 8GB Micro SD memory card, worth over £100
- **Autoglym Winter Care Kit** including 500ml Screen Wash, 500ml De-icer, Premium Ice Scraper and Interior Microfibre Cloth, RRP £14.99
- **£10 gift voucher** to use at Wilcodirect.co.uk

Runner-up prizes:

- 10 runners-up will receive an **Autoglym Winter Care Kit** and a **£10 Wilco Direct voucher**

How to enter:

Visit www.drive24.co.uk and tell us how many used cars are for sale on the site. Submit your answer, along with your name and address, through our entry form found at <http://blog.drive24.co.uk>

The competition closes on December 8th 2013.

For full terms and conditions go to <http://blog.drive24.co.uk>



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Intended Land Disposal Local Government Act 1972 Section 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in two areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the areas of land consist of or form part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by not later than 13th December 2013.

SCHEDULE
Land at Woolley Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0EJ (also known as Prospect Road) (approximately 0.04 hectares)

Land to the south west side of Valance View, Mill Lane, Frittenden, Cranbrook, TN17 2DP. (approximately 0.02 hectares)

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager

Dated: 21st November 2013

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice KENT COUNTY COUNCIL AS LOCAL AUTHORITY

Expansion of Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Controlled)

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Controlled), Pearce Place, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 8EJ from 01 September 2014.

It is proposed to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School by 10 Reception Year places taking their PAN to 30 (1FE) for the September 2014 intake.

The current capacity of the school is 140 and the proposed capacity will be 210. The most recent census recorded that there were 161 statutory age pupils registered at the school. The current admission number for the school is 20 and the proposed admission number will be 30.

Successive Reception year intakes will offer 30 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 210 pupils.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Education Cabinet Committee, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, or from the KCC website.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer, Commercial Buildings, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QG.

Patrick Leeson

Corporate Director,
Education Learning & Skills,
Kent County Council.

Publication Date: X November 2013

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 Notice Under Article 11 of Application for Planning Permission

Proposed development at: Land west of Oakapple Lane and north of Broomshaw Road, Oakapple Lane, Barming, Maidstone, Kent, Maidstone Nr. ME16 9HS.

Take notice that application is being made by Mr. and Mrs. Sunnucks and Mrs. Foster-Crouch for planning permission to: Outline planning application for the demolition of existing structures and the erection of up to 80 dwellings with all matters reserved, with associated access, parking, open space, landscaping and necessary infrastructure on land to the west of Oakapple Lane and north of Broomshaw Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Maidstone Borough Council, Planning Department, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JO.

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the council within 21 day of the date of this notice.

Signatory: Mr. J. Collins

28th November 2013

Statement of owners' rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/13/01750/FUL: Land to the east of Swanton Lane, Littlebourne Installation of ground-based photovoltaic solar farm (total site area 22.14 hectares), estimated output of 14.96 megawatts, and associated infrastructure including 11 inverter/transformer equipment cabinets, 2 on-site substations, grid connection and associated works. **Applicant: Sunsave 18 (Littlebourne) Limited** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
- CA/13/02073/FUL: 47 St Augustines Road, Canterbury, CT1 1XR Demolition of three separate single-storey extensions, erection of one new single storey extension and associated landscaping. **Applicant: Mr J Hills** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02153/FUL: 65 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DX Single storey rear extension (resubmission) **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Welsh** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02155/OUT: Land adjoining Woodview, Maypole Road, Hoath, CT3 4LW Proposed dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Collins** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02157/FUL: Temple Field, Anvil Green Road, Waltham, CT4 7EU Removal of existing outbuilding and its replacement with detached building and attached store. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Goodger** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02158/FUL: Rear of 71 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury First-floor addition to bungalows to rear of 71 St Dunstons Street. **Applicant: Fusion Canterbury LLP** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02165/FUL: 60 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JZ Two-storey side/rear extension and associated demolition of flat-roofed extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs W Poon** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02169/TPO: The Village Green, The Street, Ickham, CT3 Crown reduction by 50% on three sycamore trees located on SE corner of village green in order to make safe for those in the locality. **Applicant: Ickham and Well Parish Council** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02171/FUL: 1 Ickham Court Farm, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QQ Single-storey rear/side extension. **Applicant: Ms L Shouls** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02186/FUL: 34 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, CT5 1DU First-floor rear extension to roof. **Applicant: Ms N Jeffries** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02191/FUL: Westgate Court, 1 Linden Grove, Canterbury, CT2 8AB External alterations to Westgate Court incorporating addition of dormers, extension of driveway, extension of boundary wall, enlargement of garden room and addition of solar panels to annexe building. **Applicant: Ms A Harris-Deans** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02192/FUL: The Maidens Head, 28 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3QZ Conversion of store into commercial kitchen with extract and air intake facilities. **Applicant: Amherst Enterprises Ltd** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02193/LB: The Maidens Head, 28 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3QZ Conversion of store into commercial kitchen with extract and air intake facilities. **Applicant: Amherst Enterprises Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02194/LB: Westgate Court, 1 Linden Grove, Canterbury, CT2 8AB External alterations to Westgate Court incorporating addition of dormers, extension of driveway, extension of boundary wall, enlargement of garden room and addition of solar panels to annexe building. **Applicant: Ms A Harris-Deans** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02195/FUL: Mount Pleasant, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NR Erection of two-storey side extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Pack** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02196/LB: Mount Pleasant, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NR Erection of two-storey side extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Pack** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02201/FUL: 1-6 Manwood Hospital, St Stephens Green, Canterbury, CT2 7AA Four proposed new almshouses, in the land of existing almshouses ran and owned by the Sir Roger Manwood Hospital Trust. The almshouses will provide charitable housing for eight deserving elderly people. The new almshouses will be designed to face into the shared garden between the proposed almshouses and the existing ones, and will include some parking and access as shown on the drawings and detailed in the Design & Access Statement. **Applicant: Trustees of Sir Roger Manwood Hospital Trust** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before Monday 23 December 2013.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Jan Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 29 November 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act

Notice of Applications

MA/13/1536/N - LAND AT, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT - Erection of 2 detached six bedroom houses, ancillary buildings, driveways and construction of a pond. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/13/1757/N - 6, COLEGATE DRIVE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4DP - A planning application for a single storey front extension, a two storey rear extension and a loft conversion involving increase to pitch and height of roof and addition of front and rear dormers. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1781/S - BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PLACE, CHURCH HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BU - Enlargement of one window and alterations to two others on the south elevation, and development of a terrace to incorporate a sundial that is listed in its own right. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1782/S - BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PLACE, CHURCH HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BU - An application for Listed Building Consent for enlargement of one window and alterations to two others on the south elevation, and development of a terrace to incorporate a sundial that is listed in its own right. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1805/N - LAND TO THE REAR OF 135 TO 147, UPPER STONE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Erection of a vehicular maintenance unit. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1823/N - MAYFIELD NURSERY, ASHFORD ROAD, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1BN - An outline planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of 49 dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping, with the matter of access to be considered at the current time and all other matters reserved. **Reason: 6, 9**

MA/13/1840/S - BRIDGE MANOR, SALTS LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BD - Conservatory plus replacement of upvc cladding with textured rendering. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1862/S - BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PLACE, CHURCH HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BU - An application for listed building consent for erection of a glasshouse. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1867/S - RIVERSIDE RESTAURANT, BOW BRIDGE, WATERINGBURY, KENT, ME18 5ED - Change of use of restaurant at ground floor level to domestic use in connection with the existing residential accommodation at first floor level. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1870/S - 355, LOOSE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9PY - Erection of a new dwelling to the rear. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1872/S - THE MAP DEPOT SITE, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, KENT - Variations to proposed house types approved pursuant to planning permission MA/13/0115 (Demolition of existing industrial buildings and breaking up of associated hardstanding and redevelopment of site to accommodate 110 dwellings together with associated play trail, amenity space, allotments, new access, parking and landscaping) being:- The replacement of the Harrogate house type proposed on plots 9, 53, 54, 59, 62, 69, 72, 87, 93, 96, 97 & 104 with the Cambridge house type; The replacement of the Harrogate house type proposed on plot 38 with a Henley house type and; Revised and updated schedule of drawings pursuant to condition 24 of MA/13/0115. **Reason: 6, 7**

MA/13/1878/S - ARCHBISHOP COURTENAY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6QY - Change of use and conversion to provide 8 residential dwellings with associated demolition, parking and landscaping. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/1885/S - LITTLE MOATENDEN, MAIDSTONE ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PT - A planning application for the erection of a detached garage building with office over, relocation of access and new drive. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1891/S - BOTTOM OAST HOUSE, LITTLE CHEVENEY, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NX - Amendments to application MA/05/1001 (Conversion of agricultural storage building to a separate dwelling including the erection of a detached garage and the demolition of an attached temporary building) being changes to fenestration on north, east and west elevations). **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1892/S - BOTTOM OAST HOUSE, LITTLE CHEVENEY, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NX - Listed building consent for amendments to application MA/05/1001 (Conversion of agricultural storage building to a separate dwelling including the erection of a detached garage and the demolition of an attached temporary building) being changes to fenestration on north, east and west elevations. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1898/N - POLLEHILL FARM HOUSE, SCRAGGED OAK ROAD, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3HL - An application for listed building consent for the demolition of existing extensions and erection of replacement two storey and single storey extensions and internal alterations (amendments to MA/13/0215 being the insertion of glazing to 2No. bays of the north elevation of the orangery). **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1899/S - THE LITTLE BARN, OAST COURT, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6JY - Installation of new fold and slide doors to lounge (rear elevation). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1901/S - UPTONS FARMHOUSE, LEES ROAD, LADDINGFORD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6DB - Demolition of an existing garage/shed and erection of a replacement garage/shed, plus erection of a double garage to the south of the existing house (Amended proposal following previous refusal MA/13/1190). **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1902/S - UPTONS FARMHOUSE, LEES ROAD, LADDINGFORD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6DB - Listed Building Consent for demolition of an existing garage/shed and erection of a replacement garage/shed, plus erection of a double garage to the south of the existing house (Amended proposal following previous refusal MA/13/1191). **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1904/N - YE OLD COTTAGE, GREEN LANE, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3JW - Outline application for the erection of 6No. detached 2 storey dwellings with all matters reserved. **Reason: 1, 9**

MA/13/1916/N - 34 ROSEACRE LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, ME14 4HZ - A planning application for the erection of a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1917/N - TOWN HALL, MIDDLE ROW, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1TF - A planning application for the Introduction of external LED light fittings. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1918/S - TOWN HALL, MIDDLE ROW, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1TF - An application for listed building consent for the introduction of external LED lights. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1925/S - FOSSE BANK, VICARAGE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6DS - Variation of condition 4 of planning permission MA/12/0717 (replacement dwelling) to remove 'and reinforcement' from criterion 2 of the condition; and variation of condition 11 of MA/12/0717 to allow increase of 570mm in finished floor level of dwelling. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **15th December 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 1st December 2013.



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/03365/FULL **4 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Minor Material Amendment in relation to previously approved application for conversion of building into two residential units (TW/12/03079 refers). Amendments to include infilling of existing windows, provision of additional openings and alterations to previously approved openings (CA)

13/03415/LBC **Thistles Whetsted Road, Capel**
- Listed building consent - Repairs and alterations including: repairs to timber roof structure; repairs to moisture-damaged plaster; reduction of external ground levels and reconfiguration of bathroom and shower room layouts. Enclosing back porch and creation of utility cupboard; reconstruction of roof to rear outshot; rendering smaller rear outshot in lime and alterations to kitchen roof space and access. New rooflight over kitchen, replacement of some windows and renewal of rainwater goods in cast iron (LB)

13/03357/LBC **Golford Cottage Tenterden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of existing tiles on lean-to with glazed roof (LB)

13/03407/FULL **St Georges Institute The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Refurbishment and extension to village hall (CA)

13/03400/HOUSE **2 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Two-storey front and side extension, roof alteration and single storey rear extension (CA)

13/03436/FULL **83 Mount Pleasant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Change of use of first and second floor from offices to personal training studio (CA)

13/03444/FULL **2 Somerville Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Redevelopment of attached 3 bay garage to provide 1 no. one bed and 3 no. two bed apartments and car parking (CA)

13/03438/HOUSE **Sinksnorth Farmhouse Staplehurst Road, Frittenden**
- Hard surfaces tennis court and 2.75m high fencing and retractable floodlighting (LB)

13/03429/LBC **Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Addition of two rooflights to attic (LB)

13/03443/HOUSE **The Priory Parsonage Lane, Lamberhurst**
- Free standing summer house (LB)

13/03395/FULL **Longbrooks Farm Knowle Road, Paddock Wood**
- Construction of drive to serve Longbrooks Farm (LB)

13/03242/HOUSE **47 & 49 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Revisions (to 1930s parts of existing structure) to approved scheme 12/02513/HOUSE and 12/02517/LBC comprising: revised garage/orangery extension to Claremont Lodge; revised car parking crossover and boundary wall to Chase Cottage; Omission of opening lights to Chase Cottage conservatory; New steps to upper garden level (Claremont Lodge) (CA) (LB)

13/03245/LBC **47 & 49 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Revisions (to 1930s parts of existing structure) to approved scheme 12/02513/HOUSE and 12/02517/LBC comprising: revised garage/orangery extension to Claremont Lodge; revised car parking crossover and boundary wall to Chase Cottage; Omission of opening lights to Chase Cottage conservatory; New steps to upper garden level (Claremont Lodge) (LB)

13/03351/FULMC **Jessops 2A Camden Road, Park**
- Change of use from Class A1 to Class A2 (Financial and Professional Services) (CA)

13/03352/FULMC **Jessops 2A Camden Road, Park**
- Installation of new shopfront, installation of 2 air conditioning units and erection of two satellite dishes (CA)

13/03462/HOUSE **Ganderhay Camden Park, Park**
- Erection of garage and construction of replacement gates and piers (CA)

13/03388/HOUSE **3 Orchard Cottages Ashurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- First floor rear extension (LB)

13/03389/LBC **3 Orchard Cottages Ashurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - First floor rear extension (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 30 November 2013



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/1173/SH - Harvey Grammar School Cheriton Road Folkestone Kent CT19 5JY - Erection of a two storey classroom block, following demolition of existing maths classroom block and gallery building.

Y13/1166/SH - Holy Trinity Church Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2HQ - Crown reduction back to previous points of two Eucalyptus trees situated within a conservation area

Y13/1177/SH - 21A Tontine Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1JT - Removal of existing london butterfly roof and installation of a replacement flat roof and other alterations

Y13/0918/SH - 9 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5AD - New detached two storey dwelling with basement

Y13/1114/SH - Land Adjacent Communications Centre Stanley Road Folkestone Kent CT19 4LQ - Erection of ten terraced and four semi-detached dwellings following demolition of the existing buildings - variation of condition 15 of planning permission.

Y11/1057/SH - to allow the written assessment by the Code for Sustainable Homes Assessor upon the completion of the development detailing the achievement of a minimum rating of three to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority in writing, without need for subsequent written approval.

Y13/1143/SH - The Well House St Marys Road Elham Canterbury Kent - Listed building consent for the removal of an internal wall.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

KCC/CA/034/2013 - Proposed development at Plots D and E, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4GP.

Ling UK Holdings Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the variation of conditions (8) and (9) of planning permission CA/13/18 to allow for the acceptance of commercial and industrial waste from commercial, industrial and institutional premises from sources in and external to the Canterbury District and source segregated fractions from waste collections from domestic properties in the Canterbury District in addition to existing waste streams and without exceeding the existing 82,000 tonne limit.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the City Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 1 December 2013



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PLANNING



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING APPLICATIONS LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00968	Part conversion of warehouse to training facility and medical suite and alterations to roof Channel House (P & O), Channel View Road, Dover, CT17 9TJ	MAJ
DOV/13/00574	Change of use to A1 143-144, Snargate Street, Dover, CT17 9BZ	LBC
DOV/13/00654	Hybrid planning application seeking full planning permission for the re-contouring of the spoil and restoration of the former Colliery, proposed siting of a photovoltaic array (10MW), restoration of the former railway halt including siting of visitor interpretation boards and rock store, landscape and ecological works and footpath link; and application for outline planning permission for the siting of industrial units (Class B2) (10,000 sq m GEA) with all matters reserved, with the exception of layout, scale, associated car parking and means of access (amended and additional details) Former Tilmanstone Colliery Tip, Pike Road, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4DJ	MESD
DOV/13/00865	Installation of 6 replacement rear upvc windows Santander, 24 Cannon Street, Dover, CT16 1ST	CON
DOV/13/00944	Demolition of the side fendering system, restricted area fencing, mooring walkway and platform, and provision of new parapet fence Fast Ferry Berth, Prince Of Wales Pier, Western Docks, Dover, CT17 9BU	LBC
DOV/13/00963	Paint lettering 'VHF 74' on seaward face Lighthouse, Southern Breakwater, Dover Harbour, Dover, CT17 9TF	LBC
DOV/13/00977	Erection of single storey rear extension, provision of glazed entrance screen to gable, detached garage with games room over and rearrangement of site by removal of the existing manege and part of car park to provide landscaped garden Ratling Court Clinic, Ratling Road, Aylesham, Canterbury, CT3 3HN	CON
DOV/13/00945	Reserved matters application for residential development of up to 203 dwellings and public open space, with access from Hancocks Field, Hunters Walk, and Hyton Drive, including roads, cycle paths, footpaths, ancillary works incorporating landscaping, a pond, and alterations to existing public rights of way (landscaping, appearance, layout and scale) Land between Deal & Sholden, Church Lane, Sholden, Deal CMRW	
DOV/13/00967	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DOV/12/00770 to allow amendments to the approved drawings (application under Section 73) Land Between 82 - 92, Wellington Parade, Walmer, CT14 8AD	ARW
DOV/13/00953	External alterations to include painting of weatherboarding white on west elevation and changing roof on dormer from felt to dry seal roofing system 4 Portobello Court, Middle Street, Deal, CT14 6LA	LCN
DOV/13/00979	Erection of a first floor rear extension incorporating a roof terrace 10 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8AJ	CON

Reason for Advert Codes:-

ARW - Affects a Public Right of Way
CON - Within Conservation Area
MAJ - Major Development
MESD - Proposal is a major development, a departure from the Development Plan & is accompanied by an Environmental Statement
CMRW - Contrary to Development Plan, Major Development & affects a Public Right of Way

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined. Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AU63
PUBLIC FOOTPATH AU63
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath AU63, between its junction with The Street and its junction with Public Footpath AU62 from the 25th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works to improve water supply to the hospital are to be carried out and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER4
IN THE PARISH OF RINGWOULD WITH KINGSDOWN
PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER4
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath ER4, between its junction with The Rise and its junction with Upper Street from the 25th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before February 2013.

The path is to be closed because resurfacing works are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via The Rise, St James Rd and Upper Street and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Melvyn Twycross

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH TB36
IN THE PARISH OF BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETERS
PUBLIC FOOTPATH TB36
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath TB36, between its junction with Dumpton Park Drive and Ramsgate Road on the 25th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via, Ramsgate Road, West Cliff Road and Dumpton Park Drive and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michael Ellis
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WBX17 AND WBX18,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS)**
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2013

The above Order was made on 8 August 2013 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding:

A Public Footpath WBX17 which commences at the northern end of Canicarde Road and runs in an easterly direction. After 13 metres there is a connection with Public Footpath WBX18. After 19 metres there are two bollards. The path has a total length of 59 metres and connects with Mount Pleasant Road. At its junction with Mount Pleasant Road there are a further two bollards. The path has a width of 3.5 metres (between the points A and B on the Order Plan).

A Public Footpath WBX18 which commences on Church Road adjacent to property No.3 and runs in a southerly direction. After 6 metres there is a gate with a 1 metre gap to the west for pedestrians. The path has a total length of 73 metres and connects with Public Footpath WBX17. The path has a width of 4.4 metres except where it passes to the west of the aforementioned gate where the width is reduced to 1.0 metre (between the points C and D on the Order Plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 2AB or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 17 January 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX
Dated: 1st December 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990



Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 16 DECEMBER 2013

SW/13/127 & SW/13/1428:
Reduce height of rear chimney. Alter staircase and windows to provide means of escape, provide heating, ventilation and lighting, to provide family room in existing cellar rooms, repair defective walls removing modern paint finish - 57 Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/13/1202:
Proposed development of solar photovoltaic panels and associated works including inverter housings, access tracks, security fencing and cameras - Land adj South Lees Farm, Lower Road, MINSTER; REASONS 3 & 4

SW/13/1237:
Listed Building Consent for internal secondary glazing installed for the majority of windows - 142 The Street, BOUGHTON; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/13/1330:
Lawful Development Certificate for use of land for keeping of horses and for the erection of field shelters for the horses - Willow Farm Equestrian Centre, Hansletts Lane, OSPRINGE; REASON 4

SW/13/1331 & SW/13/1424:
Application for change of use of property from consulting engineers office to one residential dwelling - 119 The Street, BOUGHTON; REASONS 1, 2 & 4

SW/13/1385:
New conservatory, alterations to existing ground floor pitched roof and additional folding sliding doors. New railings to street elevations plus two gates and replacement windows - Preston Lodge, 1 The Mall, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/13/1391:
Change of use of commercial premises to provide two storey one bedroom residential dwelling and ground floor therapy centre and installation of solar panels to south aspect roof slope - Land to the Rear of 122 St Mary's Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

APPLEDORE LEVEL CROSSING, APPLEDORE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Appledore Level Crossing, Appledore.

Overnight Closures are planned for the 4 nights of Monday 16 December to Thursday 19 December 2013 inclusive.

Closures are from 23:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

B2080 Station Road, Appledore will be closed at the level crossing.

There will be no direct access between Tenterden and the Romney Marsh during these closures.

The alternative route is via The Street, Tenterden Road, Reading Street, Appledore Road, B2067 Woodchurch Road, Brook Street, Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road, The Street, Marsh Road, Ashford Road, A2070 Ashford Road to Brenzett Corner Roundabout, B2080 Rhee Wall Road and Station Road.

KENARDINGTON LEVEL CROSSING, KENARDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow level crossing maintenance works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Kenardington Level Crossing, Kenardington.

Snargate Road / Hogg Lane will be closed at the level crossing.

Overnight closures are planned on Tuesday 3 December and Wednesday 4 December 2013.

Both closures are from 23:30 hours through until 05:30 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Hogg Lane, Arrowhead Lane, Church Road, B2067 Kenardington Road, Appledore Road, Church Lane, Kenardington and Snargate Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) (AMENDMENT NO.7) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, the effect of which would be to:

Reduce the speed limit on the A28 Canterbury Road from 50mph to 40 mph from the junction with Shalmsford Street for a distance of 402 metres in a southwesterly direction.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, or at the offices of the KCC Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any person wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Richard Heaps, KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 23 December 2013.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

CALAIS HILL, TYLER HILL, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Calais Hill, Tyler Hill, Canterbury.

A closure is planned to commence from 2 December 2013 for up to 3 weeks, with the possibility of an additional week's closure from 6 January 2014, subject to progress with the works.

Calais Hill will be closed from the junction with Canterbury Hill as far as the vicinity of no. 9.

The alternative route is via Wood Hill, Hackington Road and Link Road.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, the effect of which would be to:

Reduce the speed of traffic from 50mph to 40mph on the A28 Ashford Road from the junction with Shalmsford Street for a distance of 357 metres in a northerly

direction. The short stretch of 50mph speed limit in Shalmsford Street at the junction with Ashford Road will also be reduced to 40mph.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, or at the offices of the KCC Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any person wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Richard Heaps, KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 23 December 2013.

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

PUDDLEDOCK LANE, WILMINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of UK Power Networks request to lay HV Cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Puddledock Lane Wilmington, on or after 2nd December 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the Ship Public House.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via B258, Top Dartford Road, Barn End Lane, High Street, Broad Lane, Rowhill Road and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of toll bridge maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich.

Ramsgate Road will be closed in the vicinity of the toll bridge.

The closure is planned to commence on Thursday 5 December 2013 for up to 1 night, from 23:00 hours through until 05:00 hours.

The alternative route is via Ramsgate Road, Monks Way, A256 Sandwich Bypass, Deal Road, Dover Road, New Street, Cattle Market and Moat Sole (plus Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse).

THE MARINA, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst lorries are loaded to remove beach material, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit waiting on part of The Marina, Deal.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time on both sides of The Marina, from the junction with Godwyn Road southwards to the southern boundary of number 69 The Marina, at the following times

Mondays to Fridays from 08:30 hours to 16:30 hours each day

Each Saturday from 08:30 hours to 12:30 hours

These restrictions take effect from Monday 2 December 2013 for an estimated period of up to 3 months, or until the works have been completed.

The restrictions apply as and when the relevant No Waiting signs, yellow lines and / or No Waiting cones are in place.

WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Woodnesborough Road Level Crossing, Sandwich.

Overnight Closures are planned for the 4 nights of Monday 16 December to Thursday 19 December 2013 inclusive.

Closures are from 22:30 hours through until 06:00 hours each night

Woodnesborough Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, New Street, Cattle Market and Moat Sole

Westbound via Moat Sole, Cattle Market, Harnett Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, New Street, St Bart's Road and Woodnesborough Road.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

RATHMORE ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because the delivery of bridge components and construction plant to Gravesend Station is necessary, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rathmore Road, on or after 21st December 2013 for up to 17 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route for vehicles travelling north will be Darnley Road, The Overcliff, Lennox Road, Pelham Road, Old Road West and Wrotham Road.

For vehicles travelling south the diversion will be Darley Road, Pelham Road, Old Road West and Wrotham Road.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

A20 ASHFORD ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works to the railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A20 Ashford Road, on or after 2 December 2013 for up to 7 working nights between 21.00hrs and 05.30hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Square Hill Road to Huntsman Lane.

The alternative route is via A249 Andrew Broughton Way/Albion Place/Sittingbourne Road/Bearsted Road, New Cut Road and A20 Ashford Road

HORSESHOES LANE, LANGLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the renewal of overhead power cables and poles, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Horseshoes Lane, Langley, on or after 18 December 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A274 Sutton Road and Heath Road.

The alternative route is via A274 Sutton Road and B2163 Leeds Road.

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS) VARIATION NO.16 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2013

Road Traffic regulation Act 1984

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, intends to make the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed named Order (Waiting Restrictions) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following length or lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines);

ENTERPRISE ROAD

1) On the eastern side:

From its junction with Armstrong Road to a point 107 metres south of that junction

1) On the western side:

From its junction with Armstrong Road to a point 142 metres south of that junction

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should write to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than noon on Monday 23th day December 2013.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS)

ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Waiting Restrictions) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice SYL means waiting to be prohibited Mon – Sat 8:00am – 9:00am and 3.00pm – 4:00pm).

COLLIER STREET

Green Lane; southern side

That length that extends from its junction with Maidstone Road for a distance of 5 metres in an easterly direction.

B2162 Maidstone Road; eastern side

That length that extends from its junction with Green Lane for a distance of 80 metres in a south-easterly direction.

The Order will come into effect on Thursday 5th December 2013.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Maidstone Borough Council offices, Maidstone Gateway, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

BUNKERS HILL, ASH CUM RIDLEY, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bunkers Hill, Ash Cum Ridley, Sevenoaks, on or after 2nd December 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from New Street to Rectory Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: New Street, Street Road, Rectory Road and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

WILDAGE & MADAM'S BOTTOM, STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to the overhead cable network to provide a new customer phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Wildage & Madam's Bottom, Stelling Minnis.

The closure is planned to commence from Tuesday 17 December 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day

The road will be closed between Forest View Farm and Wildage Farm.

The alternative route is via South Lodge Road, Fishers Lane and Fir Tree Hill.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

DEERTON STREET, TEYNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe use of a mobile crane to replace a transformer at a railway substation, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Deerton Street, Teynham.

A closure is planned to go ahead on Sunday 8 December 2013 from 00:30 hours through until Monday 9

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



December at 04:00 hours.

The works are weather dependent, and if they cannot go ahead on this date, they will be re-scheduled to the first suitable date of either Sunday 29 December 2013 or 5 January 2014, at the same times.

Deerton Street will be closed for a distance of up to 30 metres either side of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, Conyer Road, Teynham Street, Marsh Lane (Marsh Road) and Deerton Street.

GROVE PLACE, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a detailed inspection of the railway bridge to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Grove Place, Faversham.

Grove Place will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The closure is planned for Monday 2 December from 22:00 hours through until 06:00 hours.

The alternative route is via A2 Ospringe Street, B2040 Ospringe Road, Lower Road, Wallers Road and Grove Place.

OTTERHAM QUAY LANE, UPCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow drainage and carriageway works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch.

Otterham Quay Lane will be closed from the junction with Wallbridge Lane to the entrance to the caravan park.

The closure is planned to commence from 2 December 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside normal working hours.

The alternative route is via Otterham Quay Lane, A2 Moor Street, London Road, Oak Lane and Wallbridge Lane.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

B2052 NORTH FORELAND ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to the carriageway for phone cable repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2052 North Foreland Road, Broadstairs.

A closure is planned for Wednesday 4 December 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours.

North Foreland Road will be closed between the junctions with Foreland Heights and ours and 15:30 hours.

The alternative route is via Lanthorne Road, Callis Court Road, Elmwood Avenue and North Foreland Hill.

SURREY ROAD, CLIFTONVILLE, MARGATE (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the construction of new dwellings, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily suspend the One-way Traffic Order in respect of part of Surrey Road, Cliftonville, Margate.

The One-way Order will be suspended to allow construction traffic to exit northbound from Surrey Road onto B2051 Eastern Esplanade.

The section of Surrey Road affected is from a point level with the southern boundary of 4 Surrey Road northwards to the junction with Eastern Esplanade.

This applies solely to vehicles involved in the construction of new dwellings on the site of the former Hotel Leslie, when the specific signage is in place.

To allow space for construction vehicles to exit, waiting will be prohibited on both sides of Surrey Road, from a point level with the southern boundary of 4 Surrey Road northwards to the junction with Eastern Esplanade.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time Mondays to Fridays, from 07:00 hours to 18:00 hours each day.

These restrictions commence from 9 December 2013 onwards, with an estimated completion in May 2014. The restrictions will be indicated by the relevant signage and single yellow lines on site.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

(PEDESTRIAN CROSSING (ZEBRA) – NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, MARGATE)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, proposes to establish a zebra crossing for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, MARGATE—Outside Cliftonville Primary School, opposite numbers 77 and 79.

Dated 01st December

Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager

Kent County Council Highways

Full details of the proposal, together with the relevant plans, and any other information may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highways and Transportation, Javelin Way

Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm. If you wish to object, or support the proposed scheme, please contact Kent Highways by **Monday 6th January 2014**.

Scheme ref: 13-MHF-TH-01

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

BANK LANE, HILDENBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bank Lane, Hildenborough, on or after 4 December 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between B245 London Road and Oakhurst Farm.

The alternative route is via B245 London Road, Mill Lane and Bank Lane.

ROCK ROAD, BOROUGH GREEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rock Road, Borough Green, on or after 2 December 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from number 7 to Quarry Hill Road.

The alternative route is via Quarry Hill Road and A25 Sevenoaks Road.

SNODLAND ROAD, BIRLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because a new gas service is to be installed, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Snodland Road, Birling, on or after 2 December 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside 251 Manor Cottage.

The alternative route is via Stangate Road, Paddlesworth Road, St Benedict Road and Snodland Road.

WILLOW WENTS, MEREWORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Willow Wents, Mereworth, on or after 2 December 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between numbers 125 and 135.

The alternative route is via Butcher's Lane, The Street and B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS

WARWICK PARK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING & NO ENTRY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the construction of a new hotel, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Warwick Park, on or after 16 December 2013 for up to 18 months or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed on 16 December for one day, from the junction of A267 Neville Street to Rodmell Road. The alternative route is via A267 Frant Road, B2169 Birling Road, Forest Road and Warwick Park.

There will be no entry from the junction of A267 Neville Street/Frant Road into Warwick Park on 17 December 2013 for up to 18 months or until the works are complete.

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 5 ORDER 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Reduce the speed limit on Brenchley Road and Coppers Lane, Brenchley to 40mph

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it, should write to Tara O'Shea, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 23/12/2013.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 1st December 2013

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



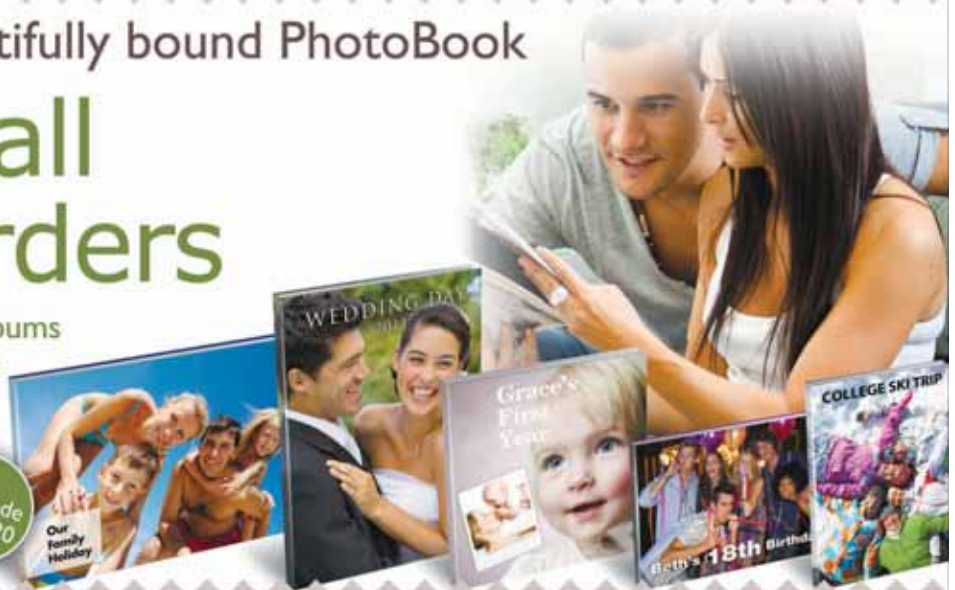
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Plan could breathe new

Redevelopment plans for Kent's south London ground at Beckenham were given the go-ahead this week. **Greg Miles** talks to Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford about what it means and what it can do for the county's future.

THE long-awaited move to establish a proper base in south London can put Kent on the right path to a brighter future, it is hoped.

This week planning approval was finalised for Kent's vision at its Beckenham home, which has long been a financial thorn in the side for the county.

The plans to overhaul the site with new facilities, including an ECB-standard academy, can turn it from a loss-making venue into a self-sustaining one, so the county says.

The venture will put Beckenham back on the map after it was overlooked for the staging of any cricket last year. It will also not feature on the newly-released 2014 fixtures (see right-hand page), with work starting soon.

Such was its financial state that operations were stripped back to a minimum at the Worsley Bridge Road Ground, which had become a regular fixture each year and an important one for the county's fan base in the now-London boroughs that were once Kentish.

Now when fans return, hopefully for the 2015 season, they will be able to make use of a new 2,000-spectator stand, while players will benefit from physiotherapy treatment rooms with a gym and pilates studio.

There will be extra income streams, with a conference and banqueting area for 160 people, bar and kitchen, new offices and car-parking.

Furthermore, a floodlit astro turf football pitch and two hard-standing tennis courts will both be open to the public.

It will continue Kent's development plans, which have seen their Canterbury home, The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, go through huge changes in the last two years.

The difference there is that Kent financed that themselves through the attached housing project and sale of land.

At Beckenham the cost will fall at the door of landlord Leander Sports & Leisure, which is also building 48 homes next to the ground as a fund-raiser for the project.

It will also look for two commercial companies to run a separate conference centre and a health centre at the site.

It is a golden opportunity that Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford feels the club cannot pass up.

"It's a huge catchment area and there are almost no competing facili-

ties in terms of cricket in that area," he said. "It's a good location for hosting matches and we should get good attendances.

"There is this whole argument that we don't need it and we have spent enough money in Canterbury and we should not move away from our base. That would be a massive missed opportunity.

"The people of Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich all see Kent as their county and want to support Kent – and young players growing up there see it as their county, too."

The delay in progress has not been through lack of belief in the scheme but because of economic conditions, as well as the planning process.

"It always takes longer than you think," said Clifford. "In the meantime, we have reduced our staffing levels at Beckenham in the last year or so. It has just been ticking over.

"But now we will really ramp it up, with things starting, and we expect to be open by the end of next year.

"Planning is a big factor in time – a bigger factor is the state of the market. We needed a situation where the residential development raised enough money to fund the other projects.

"In the recession there wasn't the interest that was needed to spark the thing into life. Confidence has returned now and that's a big factor."

The future of Kent at Beckenham depended on the approval of the application that went through last week. Any other outcome could have seen the venue ditched from the county's plans.

"It has to be self-funding – there is no way we could have made it work otherwise," said Clifford. "The reality is we would have had to walk away had it not worked."

Having a foothold on the doorstep of the capital has many benefits, with

“A player growing up in Lewisham would had to have come to Canterbury to be a part of the academy. You can only do a limited amount with that.”

Jamie Clifford,
Kent chief executive

THE FUTURE: Plans have been approved for the redevelopment of Kent's Beckenham ground, work on which will start soon



New fixtures schedule is more accessible

KENT fans can start planning their 2014 summer after the county's fixtures were revealed this week.

The new fixtures, which can be cut out from the next page, are the first to be organised under a new ECB schedule running until 2017.

It has been introduced based on recommendations of the Morgan Review into the domestic game and fans' feedback.

It means that five of Kent's County Championship matches will start on a Sunday, as well as two on a Saturday, giving fans

more chance to see the action than before.

The Royal London One-Day Cup replaces the Yorkshire Bank 40 and will include four home day/night matches.

The NatWest T20 Blast includes five floodlit matches taking place on Friday nights. There is also a sixth floodlit home match against Essex on June 11.

The only match yet to have a venue confirmed at home is against Gloucestershire in May, which it is hoped will become part of the

Tunbridge Wells Cricket Week. Discussions over that are ongoing between Kent and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford was pleased with the new schedule.

"The 2014 schedule offers more opportunities to enjoy watching Kent cricket more often," he said.

"I hope as many in the county as possible will take the opportunity – with increased evening and weekend cricket – to support Kent in 2014."

life into Kent



youngsters building an affinity to a county they will one day support or even play for.

Two cases in point are Adam Ball and Adam Riley, who have broken into the first team in recent years and were born in Greenwich and Sidcup respectively.

"A player growing up in Lewisham would have had to have come to Canterbury to be a part of the academy. You can only do a limited amount with that," said Clifford.

"It gives us a high-quality academy in that area. It also provides us with an opportunity to engage with the local community."

The plans have also sparked discussions with Premier League football club Crystal Palace, whose training ground backs on to the site.

"It's very exciting. I have been in discussions with Crystal Palace about it," said Clifford. "There are lots of possibilities of working together."

"With having two professional sports clubs next to each other, it would seem silly not to."

With one big hurdle overcome, the county are now looking at their financial results for the last year.

When the last set of figures was revealed, it heralded redundancies at the county, with post-tax losses of £628,054, but Clifford feels it has been a more positive year.

"I'm never one to be complacent, but we have made some good progress. We need to keep doing the hard work," he said. "The audit part has just started as our financial year ends in October."

"We have had a more positive year. We have had four years of year-on-year improvement."

“ The new set-up at Folkestone is fantastic. They know what they need to do down the line if they want to attract county cricket back there again. ”

Jamie Clifford,
Kent chief executive

Kent played their first game at Beckenham in 2003, ending a 49-year absence from when their last championship matches were played there.

The county's last game there came in 2012 when they thrashed Surrey in the T20 by eight wickets thanks to a half-century from Rob Key.

While Kent's base is at Canterbury and they have long used The Nevill at Tunbridge Wells on their journey to outgrounds, there are other options to explore in the future.

The Mote at Maidstone and the former Cheriton Road Sports Ground at Folkestone have fallen out of favour for various reasons in recent years, having previously been a big part of the county's summer plans.

However, there is every chance they could reappear on the schedule. Folkestone, where Kent last played in 1995, is especially closer to a return, having had a huge overhaul in facilities in the last year.

Bankrolled by the former Saga owner Roger de Haan, it has been re-

branded the Three Hills Sports Park at a cost of £7 million, with a new pavilion, several astroturf pitches, netball court, cricket nets and a host of indoor conference facilities.

They are all managed by Freedom Leisure on behalf of the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust.

There are also plans for redevelopment at Mote Park with a £4m scheme proposed by Mote Cricket Club and Maidstone Rugby Club, who both play out of the venue.

That includes a new pavilion, which will be funded by the sale of land for housing.

Kent last played in Maidstone, where they had held an annual cricket week for 140 years, in 2005.

That game against Gloucestershire resulted in an eight-point deduction for the hosts, with a poor pitch slowing the game and resulting in it ending after just two days of play.

"As a county we remained committed to trying to take the game around the county where we can," said Clifford. "The Mote and Folkestone are good venues historically and venues we would like to go back to."

"The new set-up at Folkestone is fantastic. They know what they need to do down the line if they want to attract county cricket back there again."

"At the moment we are offering the support where they need it and maintaining contact."

"There are certain levels you have got to have to host First Class cricket. We have had discussions with the club on what they need to do."

"The standard of pitch is non-negotiable in terms of hosting First Class cricket, which is including our own ground."

KCCC fixtures 2013-14

APRIL

Mon 7	Loughborough MCCU The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 11am UNI
Sun 13	Worcestershire New Road at 11am LV=CC
Sun 20	Leicestershire Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 11am LV=CC

MAY

Sun 4	Surrey Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 11am LV=CC
Sun 11	Derbyshire Derby at 11am LV=CC
Fri 16	Sri Lanka Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at TBC TOM 1 (F)
Sun 18	Gloucestershire Bristol at 11am LV=CC
Fri 23	Somerset Taunton at 3pm T20 Blast
Sun 25	Worcestershire Tunbridge Wells at 11am LV=CC
Fri 30	Gloucestershire Venue and time TBC T20 Blast

JUNE

Thur 5	Hampshire Ageas Bowl at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Fri 6	Middlesex Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Sat 7	Essex Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 11am LV=CC
Wed 11	Essex Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Fri 13	Glamorgan SWALEC Stadium at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Sun 15	Glamorgan SWALEC Stadium at 11 am LV=CC
Fri 20	Sussex Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Sun 22	Derbyshire Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 11am LV=CC
Fri 27	Gloucestershire Bristol at 5.30pm T20 Blast

JULY

Wed 2	Surrey Kia Oval at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Fri 4	Hampshire Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 7pm

Mon 7	T20 Blast (F) Leicestershire Grace Road at 11am LV=CC
Fri 11	Sussex Hove at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Sat 12	Essex Colchester at 3pm T20 Blast
Fri 18	Somerset Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Sun 20	Surrey Guildford at 11am LV=CC
Fri 25	Surrey Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence at 7pm T20 Blast (F)
Tue 29	Durham Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 2pm One-Day Cup (F)
Thur 31	Somerset Taunton at 10.30am One-Day Cup

AUGUST

1-3	T20 Blast QFs TBC T20 Blast
Tues 5	Surrey Kia Oval at 2pm One-Day Cup (F)
Wed 6	Glamorgan Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 2pm One-Day Cup (F)
Fri 8	Nottinghamshire Trent Bridge at 2pm One-Day Cup (F)
Sun 10	Warwickshire TBC at 10.30pm One-Day Cup
Wed 13	Sussex Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 2pm One-Day Cup – CCW
Fri 15	Hampshire Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 11am LV=CC – CCW
Wed 20	Middlesex Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 2pm One-Day Cup – CCW
Sat 23	T20 Blast Finals Day Edgbaston T20 Blast
26/28/29	One-Day Cup QFs One-Day Cup
Sun 31	Glamorgan Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 11am LV=CC

SEPTEMBER

4/6	One-Day Cup SFs One-Day Cup
Tue 9	Essex Chelmsford at 10.30am LV=CC
Mon 15	Hampshire Ageas Bowl at 10.30am LV=CC
Sat 20	One-Day Cup Final Lord's at 10.30am One-Day Cup
Tues 23	Gloucestershire Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 10.30am LV=CC



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